

THE FOWLER.

CONTAINING
RULES FOR TAKING EVERY SPECIES
OF
LAND AND WATER FOWL;

WHETHER BY
FOWLING PIECE, NET, ENGINE, or otherwise.

SUCH AS,
WOODCOCKS, SNIPES, PARTRIDGES,
FELFARES, GLEADS, PHEASANTS,
PIGEONS, CROWS, RAILS, and
MAGPIES, ROOKS, QUAILS,
MOREPOOTS, HERNS,

WITH
An Account of their SEASONS;
Descriptions of their HAUNTS; and Methods for making LIMES,
LIMED TWIGS, SPRINGES, BAITS, &c. for taking them.

LIKEWISE,
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DOGS for FOWLING;
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WOOD LARK,	STARLING,	SKY LARK,	GOLD FINCH,
LINNET,	TIT LARK,	REDSTART,	HEDGE
CHAFFINCH,	BULL FINCH,	WREN,	SPARROW.

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good SONG.

By NICHOLAS COXE, Esq;
Author of the HUNTSMAN.

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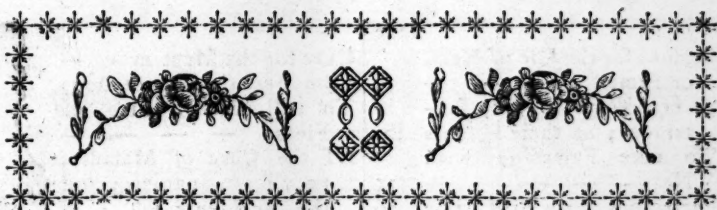
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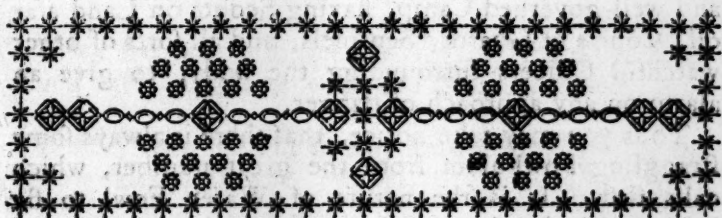
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T H E F O W L E R.



*Of FOWLING; with the Nature and Diversity of all
Manner of Fowl.*

FOWLING is used two ways; viz. by enticing the Fowl with Pipe, Whistle, or Call; or by Engine, which surprizes them unawares.

Fowl are of divers sorts, as well in their Nature, as their Feathers: but I shall, for brevity-sake, distinguish them only into two kinds, viz. Land and Water Fowl.

The Water Fowl are so called from the natural delight they take in and about the Water, gathering from thence all their food and nutriment.

Water Fowl are in their own nature the subtlest and wisest of Birds, and most careful of their own safety: Hence they have been formerly compared to an orderly

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and well-governed Camp, having Scouts on Land afar off, Courts of Guards, Sentinels, and all sorts of other watchful Officers surrounding the body, to give an alarm on any approach of danger.

Thus you may take notice, that there is always some straggling Fowl aloof from the great number, which calls first. It is the nature of Water Fowl to fly in great Flocks, having always a regard to the general safety; so that if you see a single Fowl, or a couple fly together, you may imagine they have been somewhere affrighted from the rest by some apprehension of danger: but so naturally are they inclined to society, that they seldom leave wing till they meet together again. And this is occasioned not only by the near approach of men, but also by the beating of Haggards on the Rivers, as also by the appearance of the *Buzzard* and *Ring-tail*.

Of Water Fowl there are two sorts; such as live of the water, and such as live on the water: the one taking their sustenance from the water, without swimming thereon, but wading and diving for it with their long Legs: The other are Web-footed, and swim, as the *Swan*, *Goose*, *Mallard*, &c.

Of the HAUNTS of FOWL.

THE Fowler is chiefly to know the Haunts of Fowl. In order thereto, you are to understand, that all sorts of greater Fowl, viz. those who divide the foot, have their residence by the edge of shallow Rivers, by Brooks, and Plashes of water: and these appear not in Flocks, but here one, there a couple, and the like; which makes them difficult to be taken by Engine or Device; but they are the best flights for *Hawks* that can be imagined.

Likewise these Fowl delight in low and boggy places; and the more sedgy, marshy, and rotten such grounds are, the fitter they are for the haunts of these Fowl.

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They frequent also the dry parts of drowned Fens, which are overgrown with tall Rushes, Reeds, and Sedges.

Lastly, they delight in half-drowned Moors, or the hollow vales of Downs, Heaths, or Plains, where there is shelter either of Hedges, Hills, Tufts of Bushes or Trees, for them to lurk obscurely.

The lesser Fowl, which are Web-footed, haunt continually drowned Fens, where they may have plenty of water, and may swim undisturbed by man or beast. Their Haunt is likewise in the main Streams of Rivers, where the Current is swiftest and least subject to freeze; and the broader and deeper such Rivers are, the greater delight these Fowl take therein; the *Wild-goose* and *Barnacle* excepted, which abide no waters above their sounding; for when they cannot reach the Ooze, they instantly remove thence, seeking out more shallow places. The two last are much delighted with green Winter-Corn; and therefore you are certain of seeing them where such Grain is sown, especially if the ends of the Lands have much water about them.

Likewise these smaller Fowl very much resort to small Brooks, Rivers, Ponds, drowned Meadows, Pastures, Moors, Plashes, Meres, Loughs and Lakes; especially if well stored with little Islands unfrequented, and furnished with Shrubs, Bushes, Reeds, &c. and then they will breed, and inhabit such places both Summer and Winter.

Of taking GREAT FOWL with NETS.

THE first thing you are to consider, is making your Nets, which must be of the best Packthread, with Meshes, at least two Inches from point to point. The larger the Meshes are (so that the Fowl cannot creep through them); the better; for these more certainly intangle them.

THE FOWLER.

Let your Nets be barely two fathom deep, and six in length, which is the greatest proportion that a man is able to overthrow. Verge your Net on each side with very strong Cord, and extend it at each end upon long Poles made for that purpose.

Having his Nets in readiness, let the Fowler observe the Haunts of Fowl, that is, their Morning and Evening feedings, coming at least two hours before those seasons; then spreading his Net smooth and flat upon the ground, staking the two lower ends firm thereon, let the upper ends stand extended upon the long Cord, the farther end thereof being staked fast down to the Earth two or three fathom from the Net; and let the Stake which keeps down the Cord stand in a direct and even line with the lower verge of the Net, the distance still observed: then the other end of the Cord, which must be at least ten or twelve fathom long, the Fowler is to hold in his hand at the distance aforesaid, where he must make some artificial shelter, either of Grass, Sods, Earth, or such like matter, in order that he may be out of the sight of the Fowl.

Observe to let the Net lie so ready for the Game, that upon the least pull it may rise from the Earth and fall over.

Strew over all your Net, as it lies upon the ground, some Grass, that you may hide it from the Fowl; also stake down near your Net a live *Herrn*, or some other Fowl formerly taken, for a Lure. When you observe a competent number of Fowl come within the verge of your Net, then draw your Cord suddenly, and so cast the Net over them. Continue thus doing till the Sun be near an hour high, and no longer, for then their feeding is over for that time; and so do at Evening from about Sun-set till Twilight. By these means you may take great quantities of larger Wild Fowl, together with *Plovers*, which have their food as much from Land as Water.

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To take SMALL WATER-FOWL with NETS.

LET your Nets be made of the smallest and strongest Packthread, and the Meshes nothing near so big as those for the greater Fowl, about two foot and a half or three foot deep; line these Nets on both sides with false Nets, every Mesh being about a foot and a half square, that as the Fowls strike either through, or against them, the smaller Net may pass through the great Meshes, and entangle the Fowl.

These Nets you must pitch for the Evening-flight of Fowl before Sun-set, staking them down on each side of a River about half a foot within the water, the lower side of the Net being so plumbed that it may sink so far and no farther: Let the upper side of the Net be placed slantwise, shoaling against the Water, yet not touching it by near two foot; and let the Strings which support the upper side of the Net be fastned to small yielding Sticks stuck in the Bank, which, as the Fowl strikes, may give liberty to the Net to run and entangle them. Thus place several of these Nets over divers parts of a River, about twelve-score one from another, or as the River or Brook shall allow; and be confident, if any Fowl come on the River that night, you shall have some of them.

That you may the sooner obtain your desire, take your Gun, and go to all the Fens and Plashes that are at a distance from your Nets, and fire it three or four times; which will so affright the Fowl, that they will instantly post to the Rivers; then plant your Nets upon these Fens and Plashes.

In the Morning go first to the River, and see what Fowl are there surpris'd; and having taken them up with your Nets, if you espy any Fowl on the River, discharge your Gun, which will make them fly to the Fens and Plashes; then go, and see what you have taken

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taken there. Thus you shall be sure to be furnished with some, though there be never so few abroad.

To take all Manner of SMALL BIRDS with BIRD-LIME.

IN cold weather, that is, in Frost or Snow, all sorts of small Birds assemble in Flocks, as *Larks, Chaffinches, Linnets, Goldfinches, Yellowhammers, Buntings, Sparrows, &c.* all these except the *Lark*, perch on Trees or Bushes, as well as feed on the ground. If you perceive them to resort about your House or Fields adjacent, then use Bird-lime well prepared, and not over-old; order it after this manner: Take an Earthen dish and put the Bird-lime into it, and add thereto some fresh Lard, or *Capons* grease, putting an ounce of either to a quarter of a pound of Bird-lime: then setting it over the fire, let it melt gently together; but let it not boil, by any means; for if you do, you will take away the strength of the Bird-lime, and spoil it. Having thus prepared it, get a quantity of Wheat-ears, as many as you think you shall conveniently use, and cut the Straw about a foot long besides the Ears; then from the bottom of the Ears to the middle of the Straw lime it about six Inches: the Lime must be warm when you lime the Straw, that it may run thin upon the Straw, be less discernable, and consequently not suspected by the Birds.

Having thus your limed Straws ready, go into the field adjacent to your house, and carry a bag of Chaff and threshed Ears, and scatter these together twenty yards wide (it is best in a Snow); then take the limed Ears, and stick them up and down with the ears leaning, or at the end touching the ground; then retire from the place, and traverse the grounds all round about; then the Birds, being disturbed in their other haunts, fly hither, and pecking at the ears of Corn,
find

find that they stick to them; they then straightway mount up from the Earth, and in their flight the Bird-limed straws lap under their Wings; thus they fall, are not able to disengage themselves from the Straw, and so are certainly taken.

By the way, take this Caution; do not take up five or six which number may be entangled, for that may hinder you from taking three or four dozen at one time. If they be *Larks* that fall where your Bird-limed Straws lie, go not near them till they rise of themselves; then you may take prodigious quantities of them; because they fly in great flocks, and I can assure you I have caught five dozen at one list.

You may lay some nearer home to take *Finches*, *Sparrows*, *Yellowhammers*, &c. which resort near Houses and Barn-doors, where you may easily take them after the manner aforesaid. The taking of *Sparrows* is a very great benefit to the Husbandman, for they are his principal Enemies, of all the small Birds; inso-much, as I dare assure them, that every dozen of *Sparrows* taken by them in the Winter, shall save them a Quarter of Wheat before Harvest be ended. You may stick the top of your House, if thatched, for them; and though you never have the Birds, yet the destruction of them will be a great advantage. Before a Barn-door, if you lay your twigs, or Limed straws, you may there take them, with abundance of other small Birds. The *Sparrow* is, besides, an excellent food, and a great restorer of decayed Nature. You may also take them at Roost in the Eaves of Thatched Houses, with a Clap-net; thus: rub the Net against the hole where they are, then clap the Net together, and so take them: the darkest night with a Lanthorn and Candle is the chiefest time for this manner.

Having performed your Morning Bird Recreation, bait the same place with fresh Chaff and Ears of Corn, and let them rest till next Morning; then take some fresh Wheat-ears again, and stick them as before: and when you bait in the Afternoon, take away all your
Limed

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Limed Ears, that the Birds may feed boldly, and not be frightened or disturbed against next Morning.

To take GREAT FOWL with LIME-TWIGS.

SUPPLY yourself with plenty of long, small, straight-grown Twigs, being light, and pliable.

Lime the upper part of these Twigs, holding the Bird-lime before the fire, so that it may melt, and smear them the better.

Having first well acquainted yourself where these Fowl frequent Morning and Evening, you are then to observe before Sun-set for the Evening-flight, and before day for the Morning, that you plant your Lime-twigs; and you must also pin down for a Lure one of those Fowl, alive, which you intend to catch with your Bird-lime. Round about the Lure (giving the Fowl some liberty to flutter) stick your Twigs in rows a foot distant one from the other, till you have covered all the place, so that there shall be no room left, but that they must certainly fall foul with the Lime-twigs.

Set the Rods sloping with their heads bending into the Wind about a foot or somewhat more above ground; cross-stick your Rods, that is, point one into the Wind, and another against the Wind; by which means you may take the Fowl which way soever they come.

Place also a Lure at some distance from your Lime-twigs, and fasten small strings to it, which, upon the sight of any Fowl you must pull, then will your Lure flutter, which will bring them down.

If there are any taken, do not run to catch them up, especially if you see any Fowl in the Air; for by their fluttering, others will be induced to come in among them. It will not be amiss to have a well-taught Spaniel with you, for there-taking of such Fowl as may flutter away with the Lime-twigs about them.

If you intend to use these Twigs for smaller Wild-fowl, and such as frequent the water only; then fit them

them in length according to the depth of the River; and your Lime must be very strong Water-lime, such as no wet or frost can injure. Stick these Rods in the Water, as you did the others on the Land, and as much of the Rod as is limed being above Water; and here and there among your Rods you must stake down a live Lure, such as a *Mallard*, *Widgeon*, or *Teal*; and thus do in any shallow Plash or Fen.

You need not wait continually on your Rods, but come thrice a day, and see what is taken, viz. early in the Morning, at Noon, and late in the Evening; but come attended with your Water Spaniel; for if you perceive any of your Rods missing, you may conclude some Fowl are fastned to them which are crept into a Hole, Bush, or Sedge by the River Side, and then your Dog will be very necessary for discovery.

Never beat one Haunt too much; but when you find their number fail, remove, and find out another; and in three weeks time, your first will be as good as ever.

Of the GREAT and LESSER SPRINGES.

HAVING noted the Morning and Evening feeding of Fowl which have their Feet divided, the Furrows and Water-tracks, where they usually stalk and paddle, to find Worms, Float Grass Roots, and the like; you must mark where many Furrows meet in one, and break out as it were into a narrow passage, which descending, afterwards divides itself into other parts and branches; then mark how every furrow comes into the Center or little Pit, which is most paddled with the Fowl, or which is easiest for Fowl to wade in: This being done, take small and short Sticks, and stick them cross-wise over the other passages, one Stick within half an Inch of the other, making as it were, a kind of Fence to guard every way but one which you would have the Fowl to pass: if they stand somewhat more than a hand above the Water, the

Fowl will not press over them, but stray about till they find the open way.

Having thus hemmed in all ways but one, take a stiff Stick cut flat on the one side, and stick both ends of it down into the Water, and make the upper part of the flat side of the Stick just to touch the water, and no more: Then make a Bow of small Hazel or Willow in the shape of a Pear, broad and round at one end, and narrow at the other, at least a Foot long, and five or six Inches broad, and at the narrow end make a small nick; then take a good stiff-grown Plant of Hazel, clean without Knot, three or four Inches about at the Bottom, and an Inch at the Top, and having made the bottom end sharp, you must fasten at the top a very strong Loop of about an hundred Horse-hairs plaited very fast together with strong Packthread, and made so smooth that it will run and slip at pleasure: let the Loop be of the just quantity of the Hoop made Pear-wise as aforesaid: then hard by this Loop you must fasten a little broad thin Trigger within an Inch and half of the end of the Plant, which must be made equally sharp at both ends: thrust the bigger sharp end of the Plant into the ground, close by the edge of the Water, the smaller end with the Hoop and the Trigger must be brought down to the first Bridge, and then the Hoop made Pear-wise being laid on the Bridge, one end of the Trigger must be set upon the nick of the Hoop, and the other end against a nick made on the small end of the Plant, which by the violence and bend of the Plant shall make them stick and hold together until the Hoop be moved. This done, lay the Swickle on the Hoop in such a manner, as that the Hoop be proportioned; then from each side of the Hoop place little Sticks, making an impaled path to the Hoop, and as you go farther and farther from the Hoop or Springe, make the way wider and wider, that the Fowl may enter a good way before it shall perceive the Fence. By these means the Fowl will be enticed to wade up to the Springe, which shall be

be no sooner touched, but the Bird will be instantly ensnared: And thus, according to the strength of the Plant, you shall take any Fowl whatever.

The Springe for lesser Fowl, as *Woodcock*, *Snipe*, *Plover*, &c. is made after the fashion aforesaid, only differing in strength according to the size of the Birds you intend to catch.

The main Plant or Sweeper you may make of Willow, Osier, or any Stick that will bend and return to its proper straightness.

This device is for the Winter only, when much wet is on the ground, and not when the Furrows are dry. When the waters are frozen, you must make plashes; and the harder the Frost, the greater will be the resort of these smaller Fowl.

Of the FOWLING PIECE, and the STALKING HORSE.

THAT is ever esteemed the best Fowling Piece which hath the longest Barrel, being five Foot and a Half or six Foot long, with a middling bore, under Arquebuse.

In shooting, observe always to shoot with the wind, if possible, and not against it; and rather side-ways or behind the fowl, than full in their Faces.

Next, choose a Hedge, Bank, Tree, or any thing else, which may most conveniently shelter you from the view of the Fowl.

Be sure to have your Dog at your heels under good command, not daring to stir till you bid him, having first discharged your Piece: for some ill-taught Dogs will upon the snap of the Cock presently rush out, and spoil all the sport.

If you have not shelter enough, owing to the nakedness of the Banks and want of Trees, you must creep upon your hands and knees under the Banks, and lying flat upon your Belly, put the mouth of your Piece over the Bank, and so take your level; for a Fowl is

so fearful of Man, that though a Hawk were soaring over her head, yet at the sight of a man, she would take wing, and run the risque of that danger.

But sometimes it happens, that the Fowl are shy, and there is no getting a shoot at them without a Stalking Horse, which must be some old Jade trained up for that purpose, who will gently, and as you will have him, walk up and down in the Water, which way you please, flodding and eating on the Grass that grows therein.

You must shelter yourself and Gun behind his fore-shoulder, bending your body down low by his side, and keeping his Body still full between you and the Fowl: being within Shot, take your level from before the fore-part of the Horse, shooting as it were between the Horse's Neck and the Water; which is much better than shooting under his Belly, being more secure, and less perceivable.

To supply the want of a Stalking Horse, which will take up a great deal of time to instruct and make fit for this exercise, you may make one of pieces of old Canyas, which you must shape into the form of an Horse, with the Head bending downwards, as if he grazed. You may stuff it with any light matter; and do not forget to paint it of the colour of a Horse, of which the brown is the best; and in the midst let it be fixed to a Staff with a sharp Iron at the end, to stick it into the Ground as you see occasion, standing fast whilst you take your level.

It must be made so portable, that you may bear it with ease in one hand, moving it so as it may seem to graze as you go. Let the stature of your artificial Stalking Horse be neither too low nor too high; for the one will not hide your Body, and the other will be apt to frighten the Fowl.

Instead of this Stalking Horse, you may fashion out of Canvas painted an Ox or Cow: and this change is necessary, when you have so beaten the Fowl with your Stalking Horse, that they begin to find your deceit,
and

and will no longer endure it, as it frequently falls out. Then you may stalk with an Ox or Cow, till the Stalking Horse be forgotten, and thus make your Sport lasting and continual.

Some Persons also stalk with Stags or Red Deer formed out of painted Canvas, with the natural Horns of Stags fixt thereon, and the colour so lively painted, that the Fowl cannot discern the fallacy; and these are very useful in low Fenny Grounds, where any such Deer usually feed; and are more familiar with the Fowl, and so feed nearer them than Ox, Horse, or Cow: by which mean you shall come within a nearer distance.

There are other Engines to stalk with, such as an artificial Tree, Shrub, or Bush, which may be made of small Wands, and painted Canvas, into the shape of a Willow, Poplar, or such Trees as grow by Rivers and Water Sides; for these are the best.

If you stalk with a Shrub or Bush, let them not be so tall as your Tree, but much thicker; which you may make either of one entire Bush, or of divers Bushes interwoven one with another, either with small Witheys, Cord, or Packthread, that may not be discerned; and let not your Bush exceed the height of a man, though it may be broader than four or five, with a Spike at the bottom to stick into the Ground, whilst you take your level.

Of taking LAND-FOWL by DAY or NIGHT.

SINCE the spoil and dissolution of Paradise, no man hath either seen, or can give the names of every species of Land-fowl, there being such great variety, every Country producing some particular sorts which are unknown to other Nations.

To avoid prolixity, I shall rank them under two heads.

The

The first are either for Food or Pleasure; that is, for eating or singing: those for eating are, *Pigeons* of all sorts, *Rook*, *Pheasant*, *Partridge*, *Quails*, *Rails*, *Felkars*, &c. those for eating or singing are, the *Blackbird*, *Throstle*, *Nightingale*, *Linnet*, *Lark*, and *Bullfinch*.

Secondly, such as are for Pleasure only, and they are all manner of birds of Prey, as *Castrels*, *Ring-tails*, *Buzzards*, &c.

The way of taking these Land-fowl is either by day, or by night. If by day, it is done with the *Crow-net*, which differs not at all in length, depth, bigness or Mesh, manner of laying, &c. from the *Plover-net*; only it will not be amiss if the Cords be longer.

This Net you may lay before Barn-doors, or where Corn hath been winnowed, also in Stubble-fields, so concealing the Net that the Fowl may not discern the Snare. When you perceive a quantity within the Net scraping for food, with your Cord in your hand, suddenly pull the net over upon them.

You may take notice of their Morning and Evening Haunts to worm and feed upon the Greensward; and here lay your Net, and it will prove as effectual as in other places, if you observe to secret yourself in some Covert so as not to be descried. In the next place, pull not too hastily, but wait for a good number of Fowl within the Net, and then pull freely and quickly; for the least deliberation after the Net is raised, will prove the ruin of your design.

Thus much for Day-fowling with the Net. If you would prosecute your Sport by Night, you must do it according to the manner of the Country, and situation or nature of the ground, whether Woody, Mountainous, or Champain.

In plain and Champain Countries you must use the *Low-bell*, from the end of *October* until the end of *March*, after this method.

The day being closed, the Air mild, without Moonshine, take a *Low-bell*, which must have a deep and hollow sound, for if it be shrill it will not do; and with

with it a Net twenty yards^d deep, and very broad, so that it may cover a considerable Portion of Land, according to the company you have to carry it. With these Instruments go into any Stubble Corn-field, but Wheat is the best. He that carries the Bell must go foremost, tolling the Bell as he goes very mournfully, letting it but now and then knock on both sides: after him must follow the Net, born up at each corner and on each side by several persons; then another must carry some Iron or Stone Vessel which may contain burning, but not blazing Coals, and at these you must light bundles of Straw: or you may carry Links with you. And having pitched your Nets where you think the Game lies, beat the ground and make a noise, and as the Fowl rise they will be entangled in the Net. Thus you may take numbers of *Partridges, Rails, Larks, Quails, &c.*

Having so done, extinguish your Lights, and proceed laying your Net in some other place as before mentioned.

Note, that the sound of the *Low-bell* makes the Birds lie close, so as they dare not stir whilst you are pitching the Net, its sound is so dreadful to them; but the sight of the Fire is much more terrible, and makes them instantly fly up, and become entangled in the Net.

If you intend to have the utmost of your Sport, you must be very silent, and nothing must be heard but the sound of the *Low-bell* till the Net is placed and the Lights blazing; but as soon as they are extinguished, a general silence must take place again.

The Trammel is much like this Net for the *Low-bell*, and may be necessarily used on the same grounds; only it ought to be longer, though not much broader.

When you come to a place fit for your purpose where Birds lodge on the Earth, then spread your Trammel on the ground; and let the farthest end thereof, being plumbed with Lead, lie loose on the ground; but let the foremost ends be borne up by two men, and so trail

trail the Net along, keeping the foremost ends a yard or more distant from the ground.

On each side of the Net carry Whips of Straw lighted, or Links, and let some beat the ground with long Poles; and as the Birds rise under the Nets, take them. And thus you may continue doing as long as you please, to your great profit and pleasure.

Of BAT-FOWLING.

BAT-FOWLING consists in taking such Birds by night, as roost in Bushes, Shrubs, Hawthorn-trees, &c.

The manner is; you must be very silent till your Lights are blazing, and you may either carry Nets, or none, as you please: if none, you must then have long Poles with great bushy tops fixt to them; and having lighted your Straw, or other blazing matter, then beat those Bushes where you think Birds are at Roost; which done, if there be any in those Bushes or Trees, you will instantly see them fly about the Flames: for it is their nature, at the strangeness of the Light, and extreme darkness round about it, not to depart from it; so that those who have the bushy Poles may beat them down as they please, and take them up. Thus you may continue your sport as long as it is very dark, and no longer.

Of the DAY-NET, and its Use.

THE Day-Net is generally used for the taking of Larks, Buntings, Merlins, Hobbies, or any Birds which play in the Air, and stoop either to Lure, Prey, Gig, Glass, or the like.

The season for these Nets is from *August to November*; and the time to plant them is before Sun-rising. The milder the Air, the brighter the Sun, and the pleasanter

ter the Morning is, the better will be your Sport, and of longer continuance.

Let the place you choose for this purpose be plain and smooth, either on Barley-stubbles, green Lays, or level and flat Meadows; and these places must be remote from any Villages, but adjacent to Corn-fields.

The Day-net is made of fine Packthread, the Mesh small, and not above half an Inch square each way; the length about three fathom, the breadth one fathom and no more: the shape is like the Crow-net, and it must be verged about in the same manner with a strong small Cord, and the two ends extended upon two small long Poles suitable to the breadth of the Net, with four Stakes, Tail-strings, and Drawing-lines, as above mentioned: only, whereas that was but one single Net, here must be two of one length, breadth and make. These Nets must be laid opposite to each other, yet so close and even together, that when they are drawn and pulled over, the sides and edges may meet and touch one another.

These Nets being well staked down, so as with any nimble twitch you may cast them to and fro at your pleasure; to the upper ends of the foremost Stakes fasten your Hand-lines or drawing Cords, which must be at least a dozen, a fathom long; and so extend them that with little strength they may raise up the Nets and cast them over.

When your Nets are laid, some twenty or thirty paces beyond them place your Lures upon perching Boughs; which will not only entice Birds of their own Feather to stoop, but also *Hawks* and Birds of Prey to come into your Nets.

Keep the first half dozen you take alive for Lures; and therefore, have a Cage or Linen-bag to put them in: The rest squeeze in the hinder part of the Head, and so kill them.

Of taking small BIRDS with LIME-TWIGS.

THE great Lime-bush is best for this use, which make as follows, viz. Cut down the chief Bough of any bushy Tree; whose Branches or Twigs are long, thick, smooth and straight, without either prickles or knots; the Willow or Birch-tree are the best: when you have picked and trimmed it, take the best Bird-lime, well mixed and wrought together with Goose or Capons-grease, which being warmed, lime every Twig within four fingers of the bottom. The body, from whence the branches have their rise, must be untouched with Lime.

Be sure not to dawb your Twigs with too much Lime, for that will give distaste to the birds; yet let none want its proportion, or have any part left bare which ought to be touched: for, as too much will deter them from coming, so too little will not hold them when they are there.

Having so done, place your Bush on some Quick-set or dead Hedge near Town-ends, back-yards, old houses, or the like; for these are the resort of small Birds in the Spring-time: in the Summer and Harvest in Groves, Bushes, White-thorn trees, Quick-set hedges near Corn-fields, Fruit-trees, Flax and Hemp-lands; and in the Winter about Houses, Hovels, Barns, Stacks, or those places where are Ricks of Corn, or scattered Chaff, &c.

As near as you can to any of these Haunts plant your Lime-bush, and yourself also at a convenient distance undiscovered, imitating with your Mouth the several Notes of Birds, which you must learn by frequent practice, walking the Fields for that very purpose often; observing their variety of sounds, especially such as they call one another by. I have known some so expert herein, that they could imitate the Notes of twenty several sorts of birds, by which they have caught
ten

ten birds to another's one, who was unaccomplished in this particular.

But if you cannot attain it by your endeavours, you must buy a *Bird-call*, of which there are several sorts, some of Wood, some of Horn, some of Cane, and the like.

Upon properly using this Call, the Birds will come to you; and as any of them light on your Bush, step not to them till you see them sufficiently entangled; neither is it requisite to run for every single Bird, but let them alone till more come, for their fluttering entices more.

This Exercise you may use from Sun-rising till ten a clock in the Morning, and from one till almost Sunset.

You may take small Birds with Lime-twigs, without the Bush, thus. Take two or three hundred small Twigs about the bigness of Rushes, and about three Inches long, and go with them into a field where there are Hemp-cocks; upon the tops of half a score, lying all round together, stick your Twigs, and then beat that field, or the next to it, where you see any Birds; and commonly in such fields there are infinite numbers of *Linnetts* and *Green-birds* which are great lovers of Hemp-feed; these fly in such vast flocks, that there are often taken at one fall eight or ten dozen of them.

But there is, besides, a pretty way of taking Birds with Lime-twigs, by placing near them a Lure or two made of living *Night-bats*, placing them aloft, that they may be visible to the Birds thereabouts; which will no sooner be perceived, but every bird will come and gaze at the strangeness of the sight: then, having no other convenient lighting-place but where the Lime-twigs are, you may almost take what number you please of them.

But the *Owl* is a far better Lure than the *Bat*, being bigger, and more easily perceived; besides, he is never seen abroad, without being followed and persecuted by all other birds.

If you have not a living *Bat* or *Owl*, their Skins will serve as well, being stuffed, and will last you twenty years. There are some have used an *Owl* cut in Wood, and naturally painted, with wonderful success.

It is strange, that the *Owl* should be persecuted by all birds whatever, but especially by the *Goose*. In *Lincolnshire*, and other places, where are great quantities of *Geese*, by throwing a live *Owl* among a flock of them, they get as many Quills as they please; for the *Geese*, endeavouring to beat the *Owl* with their Wings, never leave him till they beat the Quills out of their Wings, and commonly the best, which are Seconds.

Method of MAKING the best Sort of BIRD-LIME,
and Manner of USING it.

TAKE, at Midsummer, the bark of Holly, and peel from the Tree, so much of it as will fill a moderate large Vessel; then put to it running water, and set it over the fire, and boil it till the grey and white bark rise from the green, which will take up sixteen hours; then take it from the fire, and separate the barks after the water is very well drained away: then take all the green bark, and lay it on the ground in a close place and moist floor, and cover it over with all manner of green Weeds, as Hemlock, Docks, Thistles, and the like; thus let it lie ten or twelve days, in which time it will rot, and turn to a filthy slimy matter: then put it into a Mortar, and beat it till it become universally thick and tough, without the discerning of any part of the Bark or other substance; then take it out of the Mortar, and carry it to a running Stream, and there wash it well, not leaving any foulness about it; then put it up in a very close Earthen Pot, and let it stand and purge for divers days together, scumming it as often as any foulness arises for four or five days: when you perceive no more Scum,

Scum, then take it out of that Pot, and put it into another clean Earthen Vessel, cover it close, and keep it for use.

When you want to use your Lime, take what quantity you think fit and put it into a Pipkin, adding a third part of Goose or Capons-grease finely clarified, and set them over a gentle fire; let them melt together, and stir them continually till they are well incorporated: then take it from the fire, and stir it till it be cold.

When your Lime is cold, take your Rods and warm them a little over the fire; then take your Lime and wind it about the tops of your Rods, then draw your Rods asunder one from the other, and close them again, continually plying and working them together, till by smearing one upon another you have equally bestowed on each Rod a sufficient proportion of Lime.

If you lime any Strings, do it when the Lime is very hot and at the thinnest, besmearing the Strings on all sides, by folding them together and unfolding them again.

If you lime Straws, it must be done likewise when the Lime is very hot, doing a great quantity together as many as you can well grasp in your hand, tossing and working them before the fire till they are all besmeared, every Straw having its due proportion of Lime: having so done, put them up in cases of Leather till you have occasion to use them.

To prevent the freezing of your Lime, either on Twigs, Bushes, or Straws, you must add a quarter as much of the Oil of *Petroleum* as of Capons-grease, mixing them well together, and then work it on your Rods, &c. and so it will ever keep supple, tough and gentle, and will not be prejudiced should the weather freeze never so hard.

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Of MAKING WATER-BIRD-LIME.

BUY what quantity you think fit of the strongest Bird-lime, and wash it in clear Spring-water till you find it very pliable; then beat out the water, till you cannot perceive a drop appear, then dry it well; after this put it into a Pot made of Earth, with Capons-grease unsalted, so much as will make it run; then add two spoonfuls of strong Vinegar, a spoonful of the best Salad Oil, and a small quantity of *Venice Turpentine*: This portion of the above ingredients must be added to every pound of strong Bird-lime. Having thus mingled them, boil them all gently together over a slow fire, stirring it continually; then take it from the fire, and let it cool: when you have occasion to use it, warm it, and anoint your Twigs, Straws, &c. and no Water will take away the strength of it. This sort of Bird-lime is the best, especially for *Snipes* and *Fel fares*.

Manner of TAKING SNIPES with the above BIRD-LIME.

TAKE what number you think most expedient for your purpose, of Birch-twigs, and lime fifty or sixty of them very well together. After this, seek out those places where *Snipes* usually frequent, which you may know by their Dung.

In very hard frosty or snowy Weather, where the Water lies open, they will lie very thick: Having observed the place where they most feed, set two hundred of your Twigs, more or less as you please, at a yard distance one from the other, and let them stand sloping some one way and some another; then retire a convenient distance from the place, and not one *Snipe* in ten shall miss your twigs, because they spread their
Wings,

Wings, and fetch a round close to the ground before they light. When you see one taken, stir not at first, for he will feed with the Twigs under his Wings; and as others come over the place, he will be a mean to entice them down to him. When you see the Coast clear, and but few that are not taken, you may then take up your birds, fastning one or two of them, that the other flying over may light at the same place. If there be any other open place near your Twigs, you must beat them. The reason why they delight to haunt open places, and where Springs gently run, is because they cannot feed, by reason of their Bills, in places that are hard and stony; and about these Plashes in snowy Weather they very much resort.

Manner of TAKING FELFARES by Water Bird-Lime.

ABOUT *Michaelmas*, or when the cold weather begins to come in, take your Gun and kill some *Felfares*; then take a couple of them, or one may serve, and fasten them to the top of a Tree, in such manner that they may seem to be alive: having so done, prepare two or three hundred Twigs, then take a great Birchen-bough, and therein place your Twigs, having first cut off all the small Twigs, then set a *Felfare* upon the top of the bough, making him fast, and let this bough be planted where the *Felfares* resort in a Morning to feed; for they keep a constant place to feed in, till there is no more food left. By these means others flying near, will quickly spy the top-bird, and fall in whole flocks to him. I have seen at one fall three dozen taken.

To

To take PIGEONS with LIME-TWIGS.

PIGEONS are great devourers and destroyers of Corn; wherefore, when you find any ground much frequented by them, get a couple of *Pigeons*, either dead or alive; if dead, put them in such a stiff posture as if they were living and feeding; then, at Sun-rising, take a quantity of *Twigs*, as many as you think fit, let them be small (*Wheaten-straws* are best for this purpose) and lay them up and down where your *Pigeons* are placed; thus you will find much sport at every fall that is made, and quickly be rid of them without offending the Statute: If there come good flights, you may easily take four or five dozen of them in a Morning.

To take MAGPIES, CROWS, and GLEADS, with LIME-TWIGS.

WHEN you have found any Carrion on which *Crows, Pies, Kites, &c.* are preying, over night set your Lime-twigs every where about the Carrion; but let them be small, and not set too thick; otherwise, being subtle Birds, they will suspect some danger or mischief designed against them. If you think any to be fast, advance not presently, but give them time to be surely caught.

You may take them another way, and that is by joining several Nooses of Hair up and down a Pack-thread, and peg it down about a yard from the Carrion: for many times when they have gotten a piece of Flesh, they will be apt to run away to feed by themselves; and if your Nooses be thick, it is two to one but some of the Nooses catch him by the Legs.

*To take Rooks, when they pull up the Corn by the
Roots.*

TAKE some thick Brown Paper, and divide a sheet into eight parts, and make them up like Sugar-loaves; then lime the inside of the Paper a very little, three or four days before you set them; then put some Corn in them, and lay three score or more of them up and down the ground; lay them as near as you can under some clod of Earth, and early in the Morning before they come to feed; and then stand at a distance, and you will see most excellent sport; for as soon as *Rooks, Crows, or Pigeons* come to peck out any of the Corn, it will hang upon their heads, and they will immediately fly bolt upright so high, as to soar almost out of sight; and when spent, they will come tumbling down as if they had been shot in the Air. You may take them at Ploughing time when the *Rooks* and *Crows* follow the Plough; but then you must put in Worms and Maggots of the largest size.

To take either LAND or WATER-FOWL, with BAITS.

IF you would take *House-doves, Stock-doves, Rooks, Choughs*, or any other-like Birds, then take Wheat, Barley, Vetches, Tares, or other Grain, and boil them very well with plenty of *Nux vomica* in ordinary running water: when they are almost boiled dry and ready to burst, take them off the fire, and set them by till they be thoroughly cold. Scatter this Grain in the Haunts of the Birds you have a mind to take; and as soon as they have tasted it, they will fall down into a dead swoon, and not be able to recover themselves for some time.

Beside these great Land-fowl, you may take the middle and smaller sort of Birds with the same device,

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if you observe to boil with what food they delight in a quantity of the said *Nux vomica*.

Some instead of *Nux vomica* use the Lees of Wine; and the sharper and quicker they are the better; boiling their Grains in these Lees, also Seeds or any other food, and strewing them in the Haunts of those Birds you would surprize. These do as effectually as *Nux vomica*; and are cleaner and neater, and without that poisonous quality in them.

You may choose whether you will boil your Grain or Seed in the aforesaid Lees; for they will be every whit as effectual if only steeped a considerable while therein, giving them time to take in the Lees till they are ready to burst before you use them.

Others, having neither *Nux vomica* nor Wine-lees, take the juice of Hemlock, and steep their Grains therein, adding some Henbane or Poppy-feed, and infusing them four or five days; then draining the Grain or Seed from the Liquor, strew them as aforesaid. The Birds having tasted hereof are immediately taken with a dizziness, which will continue some hours, so that they cannot fly; but they will recover again if you kill them not. If you intend them for food, let them be first recovered.

Thus much for the Land; now let us speak of the Water-fowl.

The best way by Bait to take such Fowl as receive part of their food by land and part by water, as *Wild Geese, Barnacle, Grey Rover, Mallard, Curlew, Shoveler, Bittern, Bustard*, with many more, I say, the best way which has been found out is, to take Bellenge-leaves, Roots and all, and having cleansed them very well, put them into a Vessel of clear running Water, and let them steep twenty-four hours; then, not shifting them from the Water, boil them together till the Water be almost consumed. Then take it off, and set it a-cooling. Then take a quantity hereof, and go to the Haunts of any of the aforesaid Fowl, and there spread this Bait in sundry places; and those that taste will be taken with the like dizziness as the former. To make this Confection
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the more effectual, add a quantity of Brimstone to it when boiling.

To RECOVER FOWL thus entranced.

Take a little quantity of Salad oil, according to the strength and size of the Fowl, and drop it down its Throat; then chafe the head with a little strong White-wine-vinegar, and the Fowl will presently recover, and be as well as ever,

A most excellent and approved Way to take the HERN.

A *Hern* is as great a devourer of Fish as any; some affirm, ten times greater than the *Otter*.

Several Gentlemen that have kept tame *Herns*, have put fish in a Tub, and tried how many small *Roaches* and *Dace* a *Hern* would eat in a day, and they have found him to eat about fifty in a day one day with another.

One *Hern* that haunts a Pond, in a Twelve-months time is able to destroy a thousand Store *Carp*; and when Gentlemen empty their Ponds, they think their Neighbours have robbed them, not in the least considering what a number an *Hern* is able to devour in half a year's time.

Since this ravenous Fowl is so highly destructive to Ponds and Fish of the River, it will be very necessary to find out a way to destroy him, which may be done as follows.

Having found out his haunt, get three or four small *Roaches* or *Dace*; and have a strong Hook with Wire to it, draw the Wire just within the skin of the said Fish, beginning on the outside of the Gills, and running it to the Tail, and then the Fish will live five or six days; but you must take care that the fish be alive on the hook; for if the Fish be dead, the *Hern* will not meddle with it. Let your Hook be not too rank;

then having a strong Line with Silk and Wire about two yards and a half long, (if you twist not Wire with your Silk, the sharpness of his Bill will bite it in two immediately) and tie a round Stone about a pound weight to the Line, and lay three or four Hooks, and in two or three nights you shall have him, if he come to your Pond. Lay not your Hooks in the water so deep that the *Hern* cannot wade unto them. Colour your Line of a dark green, for an *Hern* is a subtle bird. There are several other Fowl devourers of Fish, as *King-fisher*, *More-bens*, *Baldcoots*, *Cormorants*, &c. but none like the *Hern* for Ponds and small Rivers.

To take PHEASANTS several Ways; and of their Haunts.

THE taking of *Pheasants* is performed three several ways, viz. by Nets, by Lime Bush, or else by other particular Engines, which shall be mentioned hereafter.

The taking of *Pheasants* with Nets, is either generally, when the whole Eye of *Pheasants* is taken, that is, the old Cock and old Hen with all their Powts, as they run together in the obscure Woods; or particularly, when you take none but the old *Pheasants*, or the young, being of an age fit to couple or pair.

For the greater facility of taking *Pheasants*, you must first understand their Haunts, which are never in open Fields, but in thick young Copfes well grown, and not in old high Woods.

Having thus found out their Coverts, which must be solitary and untraced by Men or Cattle, the next thing will be to find out the Eye or Brood of *Pheasants*.

The first way, is, by going into young Copfes, and carefully viewing them, searching every where; and by these means finding where they run together, as Chickens after a Hen. Or, secondly, you must rise early in a Morning, or come late in the Evening; and observe how and when the old Cock and Hen call their young ones

to them, and how the young ones answer them again; and so from that sound direct your Path as near as you can to the place where they are; and there lie down so close as that you may not be discerned; by which means you will know where they meet, and how accordingly you may pitch your Nets.

But the most certain way of finding them out, is, to have a natural *Pheasant*-call, which you must learn to use, or get the knowledge of all their Notes, and how to apply them: For they have several Notes, and all different; one to cluck them together when the Hen would brood them; another to chide them when they straggle too far; a third to call them to meat when she hath found it; a fourth to make them look out for food themselves; and a fifth to call them about her to sport with. You must use your Call in the morning early, at which time they straggle abroad to find Provender; or else in the Evening just about Sun-setting, which is their time likewise for feeding.

Although these are the best times to use your Call, yet you may call them at any other time of the day, only altering your Note. Just at, or before Sun-rising, your Note must be to call them to feed, and so at Sun set: but in the Forenoon and Afternoon your Notes must be to cluck them together to brood, or to chide them for straggling, or to give them notice of some approaching danger.

Understanding the *Pheasants'* Notes, and how to apply them, with the places where they haunt, which you may know by the strength of the under-growth, obscurity, darkness, and solitariness of the place, you must then lodge yourself as close as possible, and call at first very softly, lest the *Pheasants* being lodged very near you, should be affrighted at a loud Note; but if nothing reply, raise your note higher and higher, till you extend it to the utmost compass: and if there be a *Pheasant* within hearing, she will answer in a Note as loud as your own, provided it be not untunable, for that will spoil all.

As soon as you hear this answer, if it be far, and from one single Fowl, creep nearer and nearer to it, still calling,

ing, but not so loud; and as you approach nearer to it, so will the *Pheasant* to you; and as you alter your Note, so will she: and in all points you must endeavour to imitate her; and in fine, you will get sight of her, either on the Ground or Perch: Then cease your calling, and spread your Net between the *Pheasant* and yourself, in the most convenient place you can find, with secrecy and silence, making one end of the Net fast to the ground, and holding the other end by a long Line in your hand; by which, when any thing strains it, you may pull the Net close together: which done, call again, and as soon as you perceive the *Pheasant* come underneath your Net, then rise up and shew yourself, that by giving the *Pheasant* a fright, he may offer to mount, and so be entangled in the Net.

If it so fall, that you hear many answers, and from divers corners of the Wood, then keep your place; and as you hear them by their sounds to come nearer and nearer, you must, in the meantime, prepare your Nets ready, and spread them conveniently about you, one pair of Nets on one side, and another on the other; then lie close, and apply yourself to the Call till such time as you have allured them under your Nets; then stand up and shew yourself, which will affright them and make them mount, whereby they will be entangled,

Of PHEASANT NETS.

These Nets must be made of double-twined Thread that is blue or green; let the Mesh be large and square, almost an Inch between Knot and Knot; let the length of it be about three fathom, and the breadth about seven foot, and verge it on each side with strong small Cord, and let the ends be also so, that it may lie compass-wise and hollow.

Some make these Nets, of a much larger size; but then they are too cumbersome, and hardly to be managed with one hand: the above are easier to pitch, and better
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to take, also more apt for any purpose for which you may want to employ them.

Of DRIVING PHEASANT POWTS.

The driving and taking young *Pheasants* in Nets is done after this Manner. Having either by your Eye or Call found out an Eye of *Pheasants*; then (taking the wind with you, for they will naturally run down the wind) place your Nets across the little Pads and Ways which you see they have made (they usually make little Paths like Sheep-tracks) and as near as you can, come to some of their special Haunts, which you may know by the bareness of the ground, Mutings, and loose Feathers found there. These Nets must be placed hollow, loose, and circular-wise, the nether part fastned to the ground, the upper side lying hollow, loose, and bending, so that when any thing rushes into it, it may fall and entangle it: which done, you must go before where you found the Hunt, and there with your Call (if you find the Eye scattered and separated one from the other) you must call them together.

Then take your Instrument called a *Driver*, which is made of strong white Wands or Osiers set fast in a handle, and in two or three places twisted about and bound with other Wands, bearing the shape of those things with which Cloth-dressers usually dress their Cloth. With this Driver you must make a gentle noise, raking upon the Boughs and Bushes round about you; which as soon as the Powts hear, they will instantly run from it a little way, and then stand and listen, keeping all close together: then give another rake, at which they will run again as before: And by thus raking you will drive them like so many Sheep before you which way or whither you please, and consequently at last into your Nets.

In using your Driver there are two things to be observed. The first is Secresy, which consists in conceal-
ing

ing yourself from the Sight of the *Pheasants*; for if they chance to see you, they will instantly hide themselves in Holes and Bottoms of Bushes, and will not stir from thence by any means whatever, as long as any day remains.

Secondly, observe Time and Leisure in the Work; because nothing obstructs this Pastime more than too much haste: For they are very fearful Creatures, and soon startled; and when once alarmed, their fears make them all fly in an instant, without staying to muse what they are so much afraid of.

Of taking PHEASANTS with a LIME BUSH.

Having observed their Haunts as aforesaid, take a Bush, or number of single Rods, and trim them with the best and strongest Lime that can be got: let your Rods be twelve Inches, and your Lime-bush consist of not more than eight Twigs, being the top-branch of some Willow Tree, with a good Handle, made sharp either to stick into the Ground, or into Shrubs and Bushes. You may plant your Bush near that Branch of some little Tree which the *Pheasant* usually perches on.

When you have placed your Bush or Rods, and concealed yourself, take out your Call. If your Call be good, and you have Skill to use it, you will quickly have all the *Pheasants* within hearing about you; and if one happen to be entangled, she will go near to entangle all the rest, either by her fluttering, or their own amazement and confusion. And as they are taken by the Rods on the ground, so you will surprize them with your Bushes; for being scared from below, they will mount to the Perch or Bushes, to see what becomes of their fellows, and be there-taken themselves.

It is requisite to count all your Rods, and when you have gathered up your *Pheasants*, to see what Rods you have missing; some *Pheasants*, perhaps, are run with them

them into the Bushes; therefore it will be necessary to have a Spaniel which will fetch and carry, and one that will not break nor bruise either Flesh or Feather.

The SEASONS for the USE of NETS or LIME.

Lime is only for the Winter Season, beginning from *November*, when the Trees have shed their Leaves, (and then Lime Bushes and Branches of Trees are alike naked and of the same complexion) and ending at *May*, at which time the Trees begin to be furnished with Leaves.

The use of Nets is only from the beginning of *May* till the latter end of *October*.

So that there is no time of the year but their Breeding-time, which may not be exercised in this sport; the profit of which is well known to those who keep elegant tables.

*To take PARTRIDGES several Ways, either by NET,
ENGINE, DRIVING, or SETTING; and of their
Haunts.*

PARTRIDGES are by nature cowardly, fearful, and simple, and therefore most easily beguiled with any Train, Bait, Engine, or other Device whatever.

It will be necessary, in the first place, to consider their Haunts, which are not (like the *Pheasants*') certain, but various; any covert will serve their turn, and sometimes none at all.

The places they most delight in are Corn-fields, especially whilst the Corn grows; for under that covert they shelter, ingender, and breed. Neither are these places unfrequented by them when the Corn is cut down, by reason of the Grain they find there, especial-

ly in Wheat-stubble; the height of which also serves them as a covert or shelter. When the Wheat-stubble is much trodden by Men or Beasts, then they fly to the Barley-stubble; provided it be fresh and untrodden; and they will, in the Furrows amongst the Clots, Brambles, and long Grass, hide both themselves and Covies, which are sometimes twenty in number, sometimes five and twenty, and even thirty.

After the Winter Season is come, and the Stubble-fields are ploughed up, or over-soiled with Cattle, *Partridges* resort to the up-land Meadows, and lodge in the dead Grass or Fog under Hedges, amongst Mole-hills, or under the Roots of Trees: Sometimes they resort to Copses and Under-woods, especially if any Corn-fields are near adjacent, or where Broom, Brakes, Fern, or any Covert grows.

In the Harvest-time, when every field is full of men and Cattle, then seek them in the day-time in the Fallow-fields which are next adjoining to the Corn-fields, where they lie lurking till the Evening, and then they feed among the Shocks or Sheaves of Corn; and so they do likewise early in the Morning.

When you know their Haunts according to the situation of the Country and season of the year, your next acquisition must be, to find them in their Haunts: which is done several ways. Some do it by the eye only; and this art can never be taught, but must be learned by experience, distinguishing thereby the colour of the *Partridge* from that of the Earth, and how and in what manner they lodge and couch together: for which purpose you may come near enough to them, for they are a very lazy Bird, and so unwilling to take Wing, that you may even set your foot upon them before they will stir, provided you do not stand and gaze on them, but be in continual motion; otherwise they will spring up and be gone.

There is another way to discover them, and that is, by going to their Haunts very early in the Morning, or at the close of the evening, which is called the

Jucking-

Jucking-time, and there listning for the calling of the Cock-Partridge, which will be very loud and earnest; and after some few Calls the Hen will answer, and by these means they meet together; when they rejoice and chatter one with another: upon hearing which, take your range about them, drawing nearer and nearer to the place you heard them *juck* in; then cast your eye towards the Furrows of the Lands, and there you will find where the Covey lies, and so take them as your fancy shall suggest.

The best, safest, and easiest way for finding of *Partridges* is by the Call, having first learned the true and natural Notes of the *Partridge*, and to tune every Note in its proper key, applying them to their due times and seasons.

Being perfect herein, either Mornings or Evenings (all other times being improper) go to their Haunts, and having conveyed yourself into some secret place where you may see and not be seen, listen a while if you can hear the *Partridges* call; if you do, answer them again in the same Note, and as they change or double their Notes, so must you in like manner: thus continue doing till they draw nearer and nearer to you. Having them in your view, lay yourself on your back, and lie as if you were dead without motion, by which means you may count their whole number.

Having attained the knowledge of discovering them where they lie, the next thing to be considered is, a ready way to catch them.

Of taking PARTRIDGES with NETS.

The Nets with which you ensnare *Partridges* must be like *Pheasant* Nets, in length and breadth; only the Mesh must be smaller, being made of strong Thread of the same colour.

Having found out the Covey draw forth your Nets, and taking a large circumference walk a good round

pace with a careless eye, rather from than towards the *Partridges*, till you have trimmed your Nets, and made them ready for the purpose: which done, you must draw in your circumference less and less, till you come within the length of your Net: then pricking down a Stick about three foot in length, fasten one end of the Line of your Net to it, fixing it well in the Earth as you walk about (you must make no stop nor stay;) then, letting the Net slip out of your hands, spread it open as you go, and so carry and lay it all over the *Partridges*.

But if they should lie straggling, so that you cannot cover them all with one Net, then you must unloose another, and do with that as you did with the former; doing so with a third, if occasion require: having so done, rush in upon them, when they will fly up, and so be entangled in the Nets.

To take PARTRIDGES with BIRD LIME.

Take the smooth and largest Wheat-straws you can get, and cut them off between Knot and Knot, and lime them with the strongest Lime. Then go to the Haunts of *Partridges*, and call: if you are answered, then prick at some distance from you your limed Straws in many cross rows and ranks a-cross the Lands and Furrows, taking in two or three Lands at least: then lie close and call again, not ceasing till you have drawn them towards you, so that they be intercepted by the way by your limed Straws, which they no sooner touch but they will be ensnared; and as they all run together, like a brood of Chickens, they will so besmear and daub one another, that very few of them will escape.

This way of taking *Partridges* is only to be used in Stubble fields from *August* till *Christmas*. But if you will take them in Woods, Pastures, or Meadows, then you must lime Rods, as was afore described for the

Pheasant,

Pheasant, and flick them in the ground after the same manner.

To DRIVE PARTRIDGES.

The Driving of *Partridges* is the most delightful way of taking them: The manner is thus.

Make an Engine in the form of a Horse, cut out of Canvas, and stuff it with Straw, or like light matter: with this artificial Horse and your Nets go to the Haunts of *Partridges*, and having found out the Covey, and pitched your Nets below, go above, and taking the advantage of the Wind, drive downward: Let your Nets be pitched slope-wise and hovering. Then, having your Face covered with something green, or of a dark blue colour, and putting the Engine before you, stalk towards the *Partridges* with a slow pace, raising them on their Feet, but not their Wings, and then will they run naturally before you.

If they chance to run a by-way or contrary to your purpose, then cross them with your Engine, and by it facing them they will run into that track you would have them: thus by a gentle slow pace you may make them run and go which way you will, and at last drive them into your Net.

To take PARTRIDGES with a SETTING DOG.

There is no art of taking *Partridges* so excellent as by the help of a Setting Dog: but before we proceed to the Sport, we shall give an account of the Dog for this purpose.

A Setting dog is a lusty Land Spaniel, taught by nature to hunt the *Partridge* more than any chace whatever, running the fields over with great alacrity, and yet under such command, that in the very height of his career, by a Hem or Sound of his Master's voice, he stands,

stands, gazes about him, looks in his Master's face, and observes his directions, whether to proceed, stand still, or retire: nay, when he is just upon his Prey, so that he may take it up in his mouth, his obedience is so framed by art, that he shall either stand still, or fall down flat on his Belly, without daring either to make any noise or motion till his Master come to him, and then he will proceed in all things by his directions.

Having a Dog thus qualified by art and nature, take him with you where *Partridges* haunt, there cast off your Dog, and by some word of encouragement which he is acquainted with, engage him to range, but never too far from you; and see that he beat his ground justly and even, without casting about, or flying now here now there, which the mettle of some will do, if not corrected and reprov'd. And therefore when you perceive this fault, you must presently call him in with a Hem, and so check him that he dare not do the like again for that day; so will he range afterwards with more temperance, often looking in his Master's face, as if he would know from thence whether he did well or ill.

If in your Dog's ranging you perceive him to stop on the sudden, or stand still, you must then make in to him, because it is likely he hath set the *Partridge*, and as soon as you come to him, command him to go nearer: but if he goes not, but either lies still, or stands shaking his Tail, as if he would say, Here they are under my nose, and now and then looks back at the same time: then cease from urging him further, and take your circumference, walking fast with a careless eye, looking straight before the Nose of the Dog, and thereby see how the Covey lie, whether close or straggling.

Then commanding the Dog to lie still, use your Net; prick one end to the ground, then spread it all open, and so cover as many of the *Partridges* as you can; which done, make in with a noise, and spring the *Partridges*; thus as soon as they rise, they will be
in-

intangled in the Net. And if you let go the old Cock and Hen, it will not only be acting like a Gentleman, but using a mean to increase your Sport.

To take RAILS, QUAILS, MOREPOOTS, &c.

THE Haunts of *Rails, Quails, Morepoots, &c.* (which are very good flights for *Hawks*) are much like those of the *Partridge*; only the *Quail* likes most the Wheat-fields, the *Morepoot* most the Heath and Forest-grounds, and the *Rails* like the long high Grass, where they may lie obscurely.

The way of finding them is like that of the *Partridge*, by the Eye, the Ear, and Haunt: but the chief way is, the Call or Pipe, to which they listen with such earnestness, that you can no sooner imitate their Notes, but they will answer them, and will so eagerly pursue the Call, that they will play and skip about you, nay run over you, especially the *Quail*.

The Notes of the Male and Female differ very much; and therefore you must have them both at your command: and when you hear the Male call, you must answer in the Female's Note; and when the Female calls, you must answer in the Male's Note: and thus you will not fail to have them both come to you, when they will gaze and listen till the Net is cast over them.

The way of taking these Birds is the same with that of the *Partridge*; they may also be taken with Nets, Lime, either Bush or Rod, or Engine, which you stalk with; or by the Setting-dog, which I shall treat of in the next place.

To choose and train a SETTING-DOG.

THE Dog which you choose for Setting must have a perfect and good Scent, and be naturally addicted to the hunting of Feathers. This Dog may be
either

either Land-spaniel, Water-spaniel, or Mungrel of them both; either the Shallow-flew'd Hound, Tumbler, Lurcher, or small bastard Mastiff. But there is none better than the Land-spaniel, being of a good and nimble size, rather small, and of courageous mettle; which though you cannot discern being young, yet may obtain, by having a puppy or puppies only of rich breed, as have been known to be strong, lusty and nimble Rangers, with active Feet, wagging Tails, and busy Noses.

When you have made choice of your Dog, begin to instruct him at about four months old, or six months at most.

The first thing is to make him familiar with you, knowing you from any other person, and following you wherever you go. To effect this the better, let him receive his food as near as you can from no other hand but your own; and when you correct him to keep him in awe, do it rather with words than blows.

When you have so instructed your Dog that he will follow none but yourself, and can distinguish your frown from your smile, and smooth words from rough, you must then teach him to couch and lie down close to the ground; first, by laying him often on the ground and crying, *Lie close*. When he hath done any thing to your mind and pleasure, you must reward him with a piece of Bread: if otherwise, chastise him with words, and but few blows.

After this, you must teach him to come creeping to you with his Belly and Head close upon the ground, as far, or as little a way as you think fit: and this you may do by saying, *Come nearer, come nearer*, or the like; and at first, till he understand your meaning, by shewing him a piece of Bread or some other food to entice him to you. And this observe in his creeping to you, if he offer to raise his Body or Head, you must not only thrust the rising part down, but threaten him,

him, with an angry voice; which if he seem to flight, then add a sharp jerk or two with a Whipcord.

You must often renew his Lessons till he be very perfect, and encourage him when he does well.

If you walk abroad with him, and he take a fancy to range, even when he is most busy, speak to him, and in the height of his pastime make him fall upon his Belly and lie close, and after that make him come creeping to you.

After this teach him to lead in a String or Line, and to follow you close at your heels, without trouble or straining of his Collar.

By the time he hath learned the things aforesaid, I conceive the Dog may be a twelvemonth old; at which time, the season of the year being fit, take him into the field and permit him to range, but still in obedience to your command. But if through wantonness he chance to babble or open without cause, you must then correct him sharply, with a Whipcord, or pinch him hard at the Roots of his Ears.

Having brought him to a good temper and just obedience; then, as soon as you see him come upon the Haunt of any *Partridge*, (which you may know by his great eagerness in hunting, as also by a kind of whining in his voice, being very desirous to open, but not daring) you must speak to him, bidding him take heed, or the like: but if notwithstanding, he either rush in and spring the *Partridge*, or opens, and so the *Partridge* escape, you must then correct him severely, and cast him off again, and let him hunt in some Haunt where you know a Covey lies, and see whether he hath mended his fault: If he hath, and you catch any with your Nets, give him the Heads, Necks, and Pinions for his future encouragement.

To TRAIN a WATER DOG.

YOUR Water Dog may be of any colour, and yet excellent; but choose him with Hair long and curled, not loose and shagged: his Head must be round, and curled; his Ears broad and hanging; his Eye full, lively and quick; his Nose very short; his Lip Hound-like; his Chaps with a full set of strong Teeth; his Neck thick and short; his Breast sharp; his Shoulders broad; his Fore-legs straight; his Chine square; his Buttocks round; his Belly thin; his Thighs brawny, &c.

The Training this Dog begins as soon as he can lap; when you must teach him to couch and lie down, not daring to stir from that posture without leave. In his first teaching, let him eat nothing till he deserve it; and let him have no more Teachers, Feeders, Cherishers, or Correctors than one; and do not alter that word you first use in his information, for the Dog takes notice of the sound, not the language.

When you have acquainted him with the word suitable to his Lesson, you must then teach him to know the word of Reprehension; which at first should not be used without a Jerk. You must also use words of Cherishing, to give him encouragement when he does well: and in all these words you must be constant, and let them be attended with cherishing of the hand, &c.

Having made him understand these several words, you must next teach him to lead in a String or Collar orderly, not running too forward, nor hanging backward. After this you must teach him to come close at your heels without leading; for he must not range by any means, unless it be to beat Fowl from their Covert, or to fetch those you have wounded.

In the next place you must teach him to fetch and carry any thing you throw out of your hands. And
first

first, try him with a Glove, shaking it over his Head, and making him snap at it; and sometimes let him hold it in his Mouth, and strive to pull it from him; and at last throw it a little way, and let him worry it on the ground: and so by degrees make him bring it you wherever you throw it. After the Glove, you may teach him to fetch Cudgels, Bags, Nets, &c.

If you use him to carry dead Fowl, it will not be amiss; for by that mean, he will not tear or bruise what Fowl you shoot.

Having perfected this Lesson, drop something behind you, which the Dog doth not see; and being gone a little way from it, send him back to seek it, by saying, *Back, I have lost*. If he seem amazed, point with your finger, urging him to seek out, and leave him not till he hath done it. Then drop something at a greater distance, and make him find that too, till you have brought him to go back a mile.

Now you may train him up for your Gun; making him stalk after you step by step, or else couch and lie close till you have shot.

The last use of the Water Dog is in moulting-time, when Wild-fowl cast their Feathers and are unable to fly, which is between Summer and Autumn. At this time bring your Dog to their Coverts, and hunt them out into the Stream; and there with your Nets drive, and surprize them; for at this time they will drive very easily. And though some may object, that this is a sickly, unseasonable time; yet if they consider what excellent food these Fowl will prove when crammed, the taking of them may be very excusable. I have eaten them after they have been fed a while with Livers of Beasts, Whey, Curds, Barley, Paste, scalded Bran, and such like; and they have proved exceeding fat, and have tasted not so fishy as they do by their natural feeding, but exceeding sweet, and deserve to be preferred before these Fowl in any other state whatever.

Of DISEASES of DOGS, and the REMEDIES.

*Of MADNESS in a Dog; the various Symptoms, and
the Cure.*

THERE are properly seven sorts of Madness which afflict a Dog, two of which are incurable, and therefore I shall speak little of them, only so much as may give you warning to shift them from your other Dogs, because their Disease is infectious; and that you may beware of them yourself, lest they injure you; for their bite is dangerous.

The first of these incurable Madnesses is called the *Hot burning Madness*, and is known by these Symptoms. When they run, they raise their Tails upright, and drive upon any thing that stands before them, having no respect where, nor which way they go: also their Mouths will be very black, having no foam in, or about them. They will not continue thus above three or four days, after which time they die, their pain being so intolerable. And all Dogs which have been bitten by them, so as to draw blood, will be mad in like manner.

The second is called the *Running Madness*, and is less dangerous, but incurable. Dogs that are troubled with this Madness, run not on Men, but Dogs, and on no other Beasts. The Symptoms are, they will smell on other Dogs, and having smelt them, will shake and bite them, yet shake their Tails, and seem to offer no harm.

Of

Of the DUMB MADNESS.

The five Madneffes (or rather Sickneffes) which are curable, are these.

The first is called the *Dumb* Madness. The Dog thus troubled will not feed, but holds his Mouth wide open continually, putting his Feet to his Mouth frequently, as if he had a Bone in his Throat.

Cure him thus: Take four ounces of the juice of *Spatula putrida*, and put it into a Pot; then take the like quantity of the juice of black Hellebore, and as much of the juice of Rue: having strained them all well through a fine cloth, put them into a Glafs: then take two drams of Scammony unprepared, and having mingled it with the former juices, put it into a Horn or Funnel, and convey it down his Throat, keeping his Head up straight, lest he cast it up again: then bleed him in the Mouth, cutting three or four Veins in his Gums that he may bleed the better; and in a short time you will find amendment. Or you may take eight drams of the juice of an Herb called Harts-horn, or Dog's-tooth, and you will find it a most excellent Receipt against any madness whatsoever.

Of the FALLING MADNESS.

The second is called the *Falling* Madness. This Disease lies in their Heads, which makes them reel as they go, and fall.

The Cure. Take four ounces of the juice of Piony, with the like quantity of the juices of Briony and *Cruciata*, and four drams of Stavesacre pulverized: mingle these together, and give it your Hound or Dog as before: then let him bleed in the Ears, or the two Veins which come down the Shoulders; and if he

46 THE FOWLER.

is not cured at first, give it him a second, or third time.

Of the LANK MADNESS.

The third kind is called the *Lank* Madness, by reason of the Leanness of their Bodies in this Disorder.

First, give your Dog this Purge. Take an ounce and half of *Cassia fistularis* well cleansed, two drams and a half of Stavesacre pulverized, and the like quantity of Scammony prepared in White-wine vinegar, and four ounces of Oil-olive; temper these and warm them over the Fire, and give it your Dog. In the morning put him into a Bath prepared as follows. Put into six Pails full of Water ten handfuls of Mugwort, Rosemary, Red-sage, Roots or Leaves of Marshmallows, Roots or Leaves of Wallwort, Roots or Stalks of Fennel, Leaves or Stalks of Elecampane, Balm and Rue, Sorrel, Bugloss and Mellilot; let these boil together in two thirds of Water and the other Wine, until one third be consumed: the Bath being no hotter than your Dog can endure it, bathe him therein for the space of an hour; then taking him out, put him in some warm place for fear of catching cold. Do this four or five times in the same Bath, and it will cure him.

Of the SLEEPING MADNESS.

The *Sleeping* Madness, is caused by some little Worms breeding in the mouth of the Stomach from corrupt Humors, the vapors and fumes of which ascending into the Head, make the Dog sleep continually, and frequently he dies sleeping.

For the Cure, take five ounces of the juice of Wormwood, with two ounces of the powder of Harts-horn burned, and two drams of Agaric: mingle these together;

together; and if too thick, thin them with White-wine, and give it your Dog to drink.

Of the RHEUMATIC, or SLAVERING MADNESS.

When a Dog hath this Madnefs, his Head swells, his Eyes are as yellow as a Kite's foot, and he commonly flavers at the mouth.

Take six ounces of the juice of Fennel-root, and the like quantity of the juice of Mistletoe, four ounces of the juice of Ivy, four ounces of the Powder of the Roots of Polypody; boil these in White-wine, and give it your Dog to drink as hot as he can.

When a Dog hath any of these Madneffes he will likely have no desire to eat, fasting frequently eight or nine days, and so starving to death. But sometimes they eat grass, and thus having cleared their stomach of what has offended it, they will then eat.

If your Dog be bit by a Viper, wash the part clean with hot vinegar or urine, and shave the place where the wound was, or cut the hair close, and then anoint it with oil of vipers once a day for six or seven days; but muzzle him all the time, unless at the times that he should eat or drink, and then keep him from licking; and the same methods should be used with him as directed for the bite of a mad dog.

A Dog that is bit by a Slow Worm, or Blind Worm, is in as much danger as if he were bit by a viper.

The Keepers of dogs, when bitten, take the flower de luce root, and boil it in milk, then strain and drink the milk.

Cure for the MANGE.

Give him flower of brimstone and fresh butter, and wash him with a liquor made of human urine, a gallon boiled half an hour, with a pound of tobacco stalks
in

in it; the butter and brimstone must be given every morning fasting, and the outward application immediately after; but you must muzzle your dog, or by licking himself he will die.

To harden the Feet of a GREY HOUND not used to Travelling, or the Feet of a SETTER or POINTER that has ranged too much.

Wash their feet with warm alum water, taking care that the sand be out; and an hour afterwards wash them with warm beer and butter.

Cure for Dogs that are wounded by Staking themselves, or to stop a violent EFFUSION of BLOOD.

When Dogs stake themselves, by brushing through hedges, then cut off all the hair about the wounds, and wash them with warm vinegar.

If a dog receive a Bruise in any joint, to cure him, cut off the hair about the place, and rub the part gently with the following mixture, viz. two ounces of oil of spike, and two ounces of oil of swallows, mixed; but muzzle him when you lay it on.

Cure for a FRESH WOUND in a Dog.

If your dog be staked, or wounded any other way; then, where the wound is (if no large blood vessel be broken), immediately apply some oil of turpentine, but secure the dog's mouth that he does not bite you; for the turpentine will occasion a violent smarting for about a minute; but then you may be assured it will work a perfect cure. Where any wound is, the hair must

must be cut close to the skin, or else it will fret the wound, and make it mortify.

If there be any Deep Holes in the wound, then take some fresh Butter and burn it in a pan; and while it is hot, make a tent with some scraped lint; and when it is dipped in the warm butter, put the lint into the hole of the wound, and change the tents every morning; the wounds this way will soon heal; and when you change them wash the wounds with Milk.

When you use Tents to your dogs, swathe them with broad slips of linen, so that they may not get at their wounds, for they will else endeavour to remove the tents from their places.

Cure for CONVULSIONS.

The Dog will first stagger, then fall and flutter with his Legs, and his Tongue will hang out of his mouth. Dip his Nose and Tongue immediately into cold Water, and he will presently recover. But it is likely he may have a second fit soon after; in this case, give him as much Water as he will drink, and he will be well. This will save the trouble of bleeding him in the tail.

A Purge for a Dog, if you imagine he has been poisoned.

Take oil of English pitch, one large spoonful for a large dog, or in proportion for a less; give it him in a morning, and it will carry off the malignity the same day.

For a MEGRIM in a Dog.

When you find a dog stagger as he walks, open a vein under his tail, and he will presently recover.

For FILMS growing over the EYES of Dogs.

When you perceive any Film growing over the Eyes of your dog, prepare the following Water to wash them with twice a day, viz. Take the quantity of a large pea of white Vitriol, and put it in about half a wine pint of Spring Water, and when it has stood a day, take a fine piece of linen cloth, and dip it in the said liquor, squeezing it a little, and then pass it over the dog's eyes gently five or six times; and after about a minute is past, with a little plain Water wash his eyes again, and dry them. If you think the dog's eyes smart, do this twice a day.

There is a necessity for dogs always to have Water at their command; for they are of a hot nature, and would frequently drink if they had opportunity.

To kill TICKS, LICE, or FLEAS in Dogs.

Take of beaten Cummin, with as much Hellebore, and mix them together with Water, and wash your dogs with it; or with the Juice of Cucumbers, if the above cannot be had; and anoint them all over with the lees or old dregs of Oil Olive.—Or, take water wherein lime has been slaked, and boil in it some Wormwood and Carduus, with which wash the dog, and afterwards anoint him with Goose Grease and Soap.

Of the Cure of Maladies peculiar to SPANIELS, and the Accidents to which they are liable.

THE *Spaniel* is very necessary to Fowling of all kinds; but is subject to many Diseases and Casualties: therefore, in order that the Fowler may not be im-

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impeded in his Sport, I shall state the most frequent Disorders of *Spaniels*, and the Remedies for their cure.

I shall begin with the Mange; which is a capital Enemy to the quiet and beauty of a *Spaniel*; and with which they frequently infect others.

For the cure of this distemper, take a pound of Barrows Flick, common Oil three ounces, Brimstone well pulverized four ounces; Salt well beaten to powder, Ashes well sifted, of each two ounces; boil all these in a kettle or earthen pot, till they are all well incorporated together; with this anoint your *Spaniel* thrice every other day, either against the Sun or Fire: having so done, wash him all over with good strong Ley, and this will kill the Mange. Take care to shift his Kennel and Litter often.

If a *Spaniel* lose his Hair, as it often happens; then bathe him in the water of Lupines or Hops, and anoint him with stale Barrows Flick.

This Ointment, besides the cure, makes his Skin look sleek and beautiful, and kills the Fleas, which greatly disquiet him.

If this be not strong enough to destroy the malady, than take two quarts of strong Vinegar, common Oil six ounces, Brimstone three ounces, Soot six ounces, Salt pounded and searced two handfuls: boil all these together in the Vinegar, and anoint your Dog as before. This Receipt must not be administred in cold weather, for so it may hazard his life.

If a *Spaniel* be not much troubled with the Mange, then it is easy to cure him thus:

Make bread of Wheaten bran, with the Roots, Leaves, and Fruit of Agrimony, beating them well in a Mortar, and, making it into a Paste or Dough, bake it in an Oven; give this to your *Spaniel*, giving him no other bread for some time, and let him eat of it as long as he will.

Cure of the FORMICA.

In the Summer-time there is a malady which very much afflicts a *Spaniel's* Ears, and is occasioned by Flies, and their own scratching with their Feet: We term it *Mange*; the *Italians*, *Formica*, and the *French*, *Fourmier*.

For the Cure, take Gum Dragant four ounces, infused in the strongest Vinegar that may be gotten, for the space of eight days, and afterwards bruised on a Marble Stone, as Painters do their Colours, adding Roch-Allum and Galls beaten to powder, of each two ounces; mix them well, and lay it on the part affected.

For a SWELLING in the THROAT.

Anoint the grieved place with Oil of Camomile; then wash it with Vinegar mixed moderately with Salt.

Of WORMS in the hurt or mangy Parts of a SPANIEL.

Worms hinder the cure of the Mange, or Wounds, and often cause the Dogs to grow worse. To remove this hindrance, take the Gum of Ivy and convey it into the Wound, and let it there remain a day or two, washing the Wound with Wine; and after that anoint it with Bacon Grease, Oil of Earth-worms, and Rue.

The powder of wild Cucumbers is excellent to kill these Worms; and will prove a good Corrosive, to eat away the dead flesh, and increase the good.

If Worms be within the body, you may destroy them thus. Cause your *Spaniel*, when fasting, to eat the Yolk of an Egg well mixed with two scruples of Saffron pulverized, keeping him fasting till night.

When a *Spaniel* is hurt, as long as he can come to lick the Wound with his Tongue, he needs no other
remedy;

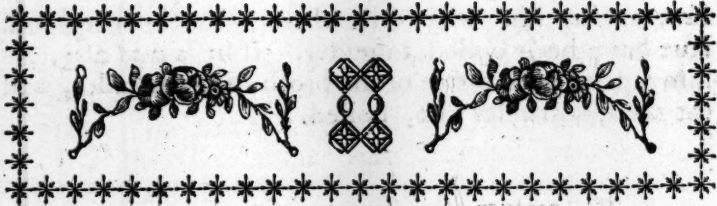
remedy; his tongue is his best Chirurgeon: but when he cannot do that, then such wounds, as are not venomous, you may cure with the powder of *Matresilva* dried in an Oven, or in the Sun. If it be the *Bite of a Fox*, anoint him with Oil wherein Earth-worms and Rue have been boiled together. If by a *mad Dog*, let him lap twice or thrice of the broth of Germander, and eat the Germander also, boiled.

To recover the SMELL of a SPANIEL.

Spaniels, sometimes, by reason of too much rest and greafe, or some other accident, lose their Sense of Smelling, so that they cannot spring or retrieve a Fowl after their usual manner. To recover such, take Agaric two drams, Sal Gemma one scruple; beat these into powder, and incorporate them with Oxymel, making a Pill as big as a Nut, cover it with Butter, and give it the Dog. This will certainly bring him to a quick Scent.

Benefits of Cutting off the Tip of a SPANIEL'S TAIL.

It is necessary for several reasons, to cut off the Tip of a *Spaniel's* Tail when a Whelp. First, by so doing, Worms are prevented from breeding there; in the next place, if it be not cut, he will be the less forward in pressing hastily into Covert after his Game; besides these benefits, the Dog appears more beautiful with cutting.



O F

S O N G B I R D S.

THE Song Birds usually kept in Cages in the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, are known by the following Names, viz. The

NIGHTINGALE,	STARLING,	CANARY BIRD,
BLACKBIRD,	TIT LARK,	GOLD FINCH,
WOOD LARK,	BULL FINCH,	GREEN FINCH,
LINNET,	WREN,	REDSTART,
CHAFFINCH,	THROSTLE,	HEDGE SPARROW.
ROBIN,	SKY LARK,	

With a short Description of these, the Methods of Taking, Preserving, and Keeping them, I shall complete the present *Treatise on Fowling*.

Of

Of the NIGHTINGALE.

ACCORDING to the judgment of most men, the *Nightingale* bears the Bell from all other Singing Birds, opening her Mouth sweetly, and with great variety of pleasant Notes: It is but a small Bird, yet hath a loud voice, which made the Poet call her—*Vox et præterea nihil*. They are well known, and not only esteemed here, but in *Italy* and other parts.

They appear with us at the latter end of *March*, or beginning of *April*; and very few know where they inhabit in the Winter; some think they sleep all that season.

She makes her Nest commonly about two foot above ground, either in thick Quick-set hedges, or in Beds of Nettles, where old Quick-set hath been thrown together. She hatches her young ones about the beginning of *May*, and naturally delights to frequent cool places, where small Brooks are garnished with pleasant Groves, and where Quick-set hedges are not far distant.

That *Nightingale* is the best to keep, which is the earliest Bird of the Spring; for he will sing better, having more time to hear the old one sing than those that are hatched later.

Young *Nightingales* must be taken out of their Nests when they are not very well fledged: for if well feathered, they will become sullen; and if too little, they are so tender the cold will kill them.

For their Meat, give them lean Beef, Sheep, or Bullock's-heart, taking away the fat Skin that covers it, and the Sinews; after this soak the like quantity of white Bread in water, and when you have squeezed out some of the Water, mince it small. Feed them with a Stick, taking upon the point the quantity of a Grey Pea, and give every one of them three or four such gobbets in an hour, as long as they shall endure
to

to be in the Nest. When they are able to fly out of the Nest, then put them into a Cage with several Perches for them to sit on, and line them with some Moss or Hay, which is as well for other Birds as the *Nightingale*. It is safest to line their Cages against Winter, or to keep them in some warm place. When they are first caged, continue for a while to put some of their Meat by them mingled with Ants, which will induce them to feed themselves.

In the Summer you must feed them every day, with fresh Meat. When they begin to moult, give them half an Egg hard boiled, and half Sheeps-heart mingled with Saffron and Water; but they must not have Duck-eggs, for these would kill them. You may give them sometimes Red Worms, Caterpillars, and Hog Lice; Meal Worms make them familiar, which you may suffer them to take out of your hand.

The way of taking them, both Old and Young, is thus: For the Young, observe where the Cock sings; and if he sings long, the Hen is not far from that place. She often betrays her Offspring by being too careful; for when you come near her Nest, she will *Sweet* and *Coo*. If notwithstanding, you cannot find her Nest, stick a Meal Worm or two upon a Thorn, and then lying down or standing, observe which way it is carried by the old one; then drawing near, you will hear the young ones when she feeds them. When you have found the Nest, touch not the young; for if you do, they will not tarry in it.

The way to take *Branchers*, by others called *Pushers*, (because when thoroughly fledged, the Old Ones push them out of the Nest) is after this manner. When you have found where they are, by their *Cooing* and *Sweeting*, (for, if you call true, they will answer you immediately) having your Tackle all ready, scrape, in the Ditch or Bank-side, the Earth about three quarters of a yard square, that it may look fresh; then take a Bird-trap or Net-trap, which you may make as follows.

To make a NET TRAP for NIGHTINGALES.

Take a Net of green Silk or Thread, about the compass of a yard, of the make of a Shove-net for Fish; then get some large Wire, and bending it round, join both ends, which you must put into a short Stick about an Inch and an half long; get a piece of Iron with two Cheeks and a hole on each Side, through which put some fine Whip-cord three or four times double, that may hold the piece of Wood to which the ends of the Wire are put, and with a Button on each side the Iron twist the Whip-cord, that the Net may play the quicker: fasten the Net to the Wire as you do a Shove-net to the Hoop; then get a Board of the compass of your Wire, and join the two cheeks of Iron at the handle of your Board; make a hole in the middle of the Board; and put a piece of Stick of about two Inches long, with a hole at the top of your Stick, which you must have to put in a Peg with two Wires, an Inch and a half long, to stick your Meal-worm upon; then tie a String in the middle of the top of your Net, drawing the Net up, having an Eye at the End of the handle to put your thread through, pull it till it stands upright, then pull it through the hole of the Stick that stands in the middle of your Board, and put your Peg in the hole, and that will hold the String that the Net cannot fall down. Put two Worms upon the wires, before you put it into the hole; and set it as gently as you can, that it may fall with the first touch of the *Nightingale*. When you have your Net and Worm ready, having first scraped the place, then put some Ants in your Trap-cage, and upon your Board put some Worms upon Thorns, and set them at the bottom of your Trap-cage, little holes being made for the same purpose to stick in the ends of your Thorns: then plant your Trap near the place where you heard them call, either in the Ditch, or by

the Bank-side, or corner of some Hedge, and walk away; thus you may set what number of Trap-cages you think convenient; and you need not doubt your desires being satisfied.

Having taken your *Nightingales* (the time is in *July* or *August*) tie the ends of their Wings with some brown Thread, that so they may be unable to hurt themselves by beating their tender bodies against the top and wires of the Cage.

Let the Cage be covered above half with green Baize, and for four or five Days let the bird be very little disturbed by company; but remember to feed him half a dozen times every day with Sheeps-heart and Egg shred very fine, mingled with red Ants, and a few red Earth-worms, if you can get them.

No *Nightingale* at first taking will eat any other food than what is living, as Worms, Ants, Flies, or Caterpillars; and if through fullness he will not eat, then take him out, and upon the point of a Stick (first opening his Bill) give him four or five gobbets one after another; then turn him into the Cage, strewing the bottom with Egg and minced Sheeps-heart mingled with some Ants.

The *Nightingales* taken at this time of the year will not sing till the middle of *October*, and then they will hold in song till the middle of *June*: but the *Nightingales* that are taken from the first of *April* to the twentieth, are the best birds for Song; and these are taken with Trap-cages or Trap-nets, as the Branchers aforesaid, in *June*, *July*, and *August*.

Observe, that neither Nestlings nor Branchers (except they have an old Bird to sing over them) have the true Song for the first twelve months. When you have so tamed them that they begin to *Coo* and *Sweet*, and record softly to themselves, it is a certain sign that they eat, and then you need not trouble yourself with feeding them; but if they sing before they feed, they commonly prove most excellent birds. Those Birds that are long a feeding, and make no *Cooing* nor *Sweet-*
ing,

ing, are not worth the keeping. If you have a Bird that will flutter and bolt his head in the night against the top of the Cage, dismiss him; for he is not only good for nothing, but his bad example will teach the best of your Birds to do the like.

To the intent you may not keep Hens instead of Cocks, and so be both at uselefs charge, and frustrated of your expectation, you may distinguish their Sexes by these observations. The Cock in the judgment of some is both longer and bigger: others say the Cock hath a greater Eye, a longer Bill, and a Tail more red: others pretend to know him by the Pinion of the Wing, and Feathers on his Head. But I have found these rules contrary to truth; wherefore take the following experimental Observations. First, If any of your Nestlings (before they can feed themselves) do Record a little to themselves, and in their Recording you perceive their Throats to wag, you need not doubt that they are Cocks; but when they come to feed themselves, the Hen will Record as well as the Cock; therefore mark them when young, for it is very difficult to distinguish afterwards.

Branchers, whether Cocks or Hens (if they feed themselves when taken) will Record; but the Cock does it much longer, louder, and oftener.

The best sort of *Nightingales* frequent Highways, Orchards, and sing close by houses: these when taken will feed soonest, being more acquainted with the company of people; and after their feeding, will grow familiar, and sing speedily. Observe, not to untie too soon the Wings of your *Nightingale*; for if he be not very familiar and tame when he is untied, he will be apt to beat himself against the Cage, and so spoil himself.

Now to their Diseases, and the Cures. At the latter end of *August* they grow very fat, either abroad or in a Cage: when it begins to abate, if they do not sing, it is a dangerous sign. To remedy this, keep them very warm, giving them Saffron in their meat or water.

When you perceive the growth of their fat, purge them thrice a Week for a Month, either with a Worm which is found in Pigeon-houses, or with a speckled Spider, which you may find plentifully about Vines, Currants, or Gooseberry Bushes in *August*, and at no time else. If they are melancholy, put into their drinking-pot some Liquorice with a little white Sugar-candy, giving them to feed Sheeps-heart shred small, some Meal-worms, and Eggs mingled with Ants. It is strange, that some of these Birds, when fat, will fast three Weeks; but it is better when they eat.

Nightingales kept in a Cage two or three years, are subject to the Gout; for their Cure, take fresh Butter and anoint their Feet four or five days, and they will be well again. For want of keeping them clean, their Feet grow clogged, and then their Claws will rot off; this subjects them to Gout and Cramp, when they will take no delight in themselves; to prevent these mischiefs, put dry Sand into the bottom of their Cages.

They are likewise troubled with Imposthumes and Breaking out about their Eyes and Nib; for which, use Capons-grease.

Of the CANARY-BIRD.

THOUGH many of these Birds are brought from *Germany*, and are called by the name of that Country, yet they are Originally from the *Canary-Islands*. They are in colour much like our *Green Birds*, but differ much in their Song and Nature; and in this they differ from all Birds: For as others are subject to be fat, the Cocks of these never are, by reason of their Staunchness and lavish Singing; which will scarce suffer them to keep any flesh upon their backs.

The best of them are shaped long, standing straight and boldly.

Before

Before you buy either these *German* or *Canary-Birds*, hear them sing, and then you will know how to please your Ear or Fancy, either with sweet Song, lavish Note, long Song, or Song which has the greatest variety of Notes. Some like those that *whisk* and *chew* like a *Tit Lark*; others are for those that begin like a *Sky Lark*, and continue their Song with a long, yet sweet Note; a third sort are for those that begin their Song as the *Sky Lark*, and then run upon the Notes of the *Nightingale*, which is very pleasant, if he do it well: The last are for a loud and lavish Note, regarding no more in it than a noise.

If you would know whether your *Canary-Bird* be in health before you purchase him; take him out of the Store Cage, and put him into a clean Cage alone; where if he stand boldly without crouching, without shrinking Feathers, and his Eyes looking brisk and cheerfully; these are signs of a healthy Bird: But if he bolt his Tail like a *Nightingale* after he hath dinged, it shews he is not well; though he seem lively for the present, there is some distemper near attending: likewise if he either dung very thin and watry, or of a slimy white and no blackness in it; these are signs of death approaching.

Canary-Birds above three years old are called *Runts*; at two years old they are called *Eriffs*; and those of the first year are called *Branchers*. When they are new flown, and cannot feed themselves, they are called *Puppers*; and those that are brought up by hand, *Nestlings*.

The chief Malady of *Canary-Birds* is *Surfeit*. This often affects them. It proceeds either from their being fed by the old ones with too much Greens, or from their own ravenous feeding on them when old enough to feed themselves. Chickweed which is thick of leaves, having few seeds, and being rank and moist, is very apt to give them this complaint, especially the young ones. You may perceive this disorder upon them by a swelling under their Bellies, and a sinking towards the

the extreme parts of their bodies, with sometimes, black appearances on the said part. In this Case, which is dangerous, keep them very warm. Colds produce a similar Distemper, but with a white, or red, instead of a black appearance. These must be attended to, and removed on their first attack, as their remedy is more difficult, the longer the disorder is suffered on them.

To discover this Disorder, blow the feathers on the belly; if it be swelled, and far gone, it will be black. At first, give Oatmeal among the bird's seed, and some Liquorice in his water, in order to cleanse him. But if this make him too laxative, give maw-feed and bruised hemp-feed, instead of the oatmeal; and in his water, a little groundsel and saffron. Bread and Milk boiled, and a little Maw Seed strewed in it, is very good. A PASTE is sometimes used in this disorder, prepared as follows; viz. A small quantity of Millet, Maw, Rape, and Canary Seeds, just boiled, then put into water to cool; a quarter of the white and yolk of a new-laid Egg boiled hard and bruised together, making it very small, with twice so much lettuce seed as any of the other. Mix these, and give them to your Bird. As a Preparative to this Remedy, and for its operating with effect, when your Bird is at rest over night, put the quantity of two peas of Treacle into his water, observing it to be clear from every thing else; and when he has drank two or three times in the morning, remove the treacled water, and give him plain water. This is to be done three or four mornings before the above Composition is given him.

Moulting is dangerous; but less so, when it commences with very warm weather, and concludes with such as is temperate. In this Disorder, they first appear rough, seem melancholy, and often sleep in the day, their heads being reclined under their wings: they shed their down and small feathers over the cage, if it be their first Year; in their second Year, their tail and
ring

ring feathers; and have besides a Pimple, growing near the tail, called the Pip, which occasions sickness. This breaks of itself commonly; when it does not, the Bird will grow very bad indeed: at such time, when you perceive it proper for breaking, you may pierce the skin with a small needle, then press out the matter, and the bird will mend.

At this time, their Food must be Bread and Egg, Naples Biscuit, bruised Hemp Seed, Lettuce Seed, and Maw Seed; and a little Saffron in their water, if it be not very hot weather. Let them stand in the warmth of the sun, as heat is a relief to them.

Yellow Scabs about their heads and eyes, are removed by anointing with Oil of Sweet Almonds, sweet Lard, Butter from the churn, or like cooling things. Their food when thus disordered, if it be forward in the spring, or warm weather, or just before breeding time, may be Chickweed a small proportion, Plantain and Lettuce, or either of them, scalded Rape Seed, a little whole Oatmeal with their common hard seeds; and water with a sliver of stick liquorice in it. This must be discontinued after two or three days using, lest it scour them too much. *Scouring* is prevented by drawing one or two of their tail feathers; putting Saffron in their water; using Maw-seed only in the tin pan, with bruised Hemp-seed strewed upon the drawer (which contained their victuals) turned bottom upward; or give them a Head of Groundsel, which is found serviceable when they have a scouring.

Naples Biscuit alone, or mixed with hard Egg, is a nourishing, and at the same time a drying food for them.

Preserve them in the Winter by feeding them properly, with bruised Hemp Seed, Millet Seed, Maw Seed, Bread and Eggs, scalded Rape Seed, mixed and given together, with a little Saffron in their Water at times, but not too often.

Of the BLACKBIRD.

AS some esteem the *Nightingale* the best Singing Bird in the World, so, in my opinion, the *Blackbird* is the worst; yet they are as frequently kept as their betters, and are in great estimation, especially amongst the Vulgar; for no other reason that I know, than for the loudness and coarseness of their Song, as they are Borish in their utterance, and have little else but rusticity in their Conditions. In short, he is better to be eaten than kept; and is much sweeter to the palate when dead than to the ear when living.

The Hen builds her Nest upon old Stumps of Trees by Ditch-sides, or in thick Hedges. They begin early in *March*, when, many times, the Woods are full of Snow; and they breed often, that is, three or four times a year, according as they lose their Nest.

The young *Blackbirds* are brought up almost with any kind of meat; but above all, they love Ground-worms, Sheeps-heart, hard Eggs, and white Bread and Milk mixt together.

This Bird sings somewhat more than three months in the year; and as his Note is harsh, he may with the greatest advantage, be taught to whistle.

Of the THRUSH, or THROSTLE.

THERE are five kinds; the *Mistle Throistle*, the *Northern Throistle* or *Felfare*, the *Wind Throistle*, the *Wood-song Throistle*, and the *Heath Throistle*.

The first is the largest of the five, and the most beautiful, which feeds, for the most part, on the Berries of Mistletoe. *Throstles*, when dried and pulverized, and drank in the water of Mistletoe, or Black-cherry-water, are most effectual against Falling Sickness and Convulsions. The Throistle sings but little;
and

and therefore, though the young ones are easy to be brought up, being hardy; yet they are not worth keeping; for their Notes are rambling and confused, and yet not lavish.

The second is the *Felfare*, which comes into *England* before *Michaelmas*, and goes away about the beginning of *March*. In hard weather they feed on Hips and Haws; but when it is a little warm, there being neither Frost nor Snow on the ground, they feed on young Grass and Worms.

They breed upon certain Rocks near the Scottish Shore three or four times a year, and are there in very great numbers. They are not so fit for the Cage as the Spit, having a most lamentable untuned chattering tone: in Frost and Snow they are very fat, and then are most delicate food; but being killed in open weather, they are so bitter, that they are not worth eating.

Thirdly, the *Wind Thrush*, (or *Whindle*) which travels with the *Felfare* out of the North, is a smaller bird, with some dark red under his Wing. He breeds in Woods and Shaws as *Song Thrushes* do, and hath an indifferent Song, exceeding the two former; but yet they are fitter for the Pot or Spit than for a Cage or Avjary.

The fourth is the *Wood-song Thrush*, and sings most incomparably, both lavishly, and with variety of Notes. Add that he sings at least nine of the twelve months in the year.

This Bird builds about the same time, place, and manner as the *Blackbird*. Her policy in building her Nest is much admired.

They go very soon to Nest if the Weather favour them, and breed three times a year, that is, in *March*, or *April*, *May* and *June*; but the first Birds usually prove the best.

Take them in the Nest when they are fourteen days old, and keep them warm and clean, not suffering them to sit on their Dung, but so contrive it that

they dung over the Nest. Feed them with raw meat and some Bread chopped together with bruised Hemp-seed, wetting your Bread before you mingle it with the meat.

Being thoroughly fledged, put them into a Cage where they may have room enough, with two or three Perches, and some Moss at the bottom of the Cage, to keep them clean; for otherwise they will be troubled with the Cramp, and for want of delighting in themselves, their singing will be spoiled.

Bread and Hemp-seed is as good food for them as can be given: and be mindful of furnishing them at least twice a week with fresh water, that they may bathe and prune themselves therein, otherwise they will not thrive.

The fifth and last is the *Heath Throffle*, which is the least we have in *England*, having a dark breast. Some are of opinion that this Bird exceeds the *Song Throffle*, having better Notes, and a neater plume.

The Hen of this kind builds by the Heath-side in a Furz-bush, or Stump of an old Haw-thorn, and makes not her haunt in Shaws and Woods, as other *Throffles*. She begins to breed in the middle of *April*, and breeds but twice in a year; and if kept clean and well fed, will sing three parts of the year. Their manner of breeding is as the former.

To know the Cock from the Hen, choose the top bird of the Nest, which commonly is most fledged. Others think the Cock hath the largest Eye, and most speckles on his breast. Others choose the Cock by the pinion of his Wing, if it hath a very dark black that goes across it; but above all, choose him thus: If his Gullet be white with black streaks on each side; large and black spots on his Breast, having his head of a light shining brown, with black streaks under each Eye and upon the pinion of the Wing; these are the best marks to know him by.

Of the ROBIN.

IT is the opinion of some, that this little King of Birds for sweetness of Note comes not much short of the *Nightingale*. It is a very tender Bird, and therefore must have its Cage lined. They breed very early in the Spring, and commonly thrice a year.

When the young are about ten days old, take them from the Old ones, and keep them in a little wicker basket. If they are suffered to stay long in the Nest, they will be sullen, and therefore more difficult to bring up. You must feed them in all respects as you feed the *Nightingale*. When you find them grow strong, put them into a Cage, with Moss at the bottom, and let them stand warm.

Every Boy knows how to take the *Robin Red-Breast* in a Pit-fall. With a Trap-cage and a Meal-worm, you may take half a score in a day. You should hear them sing, and then keep those Birds which most delight you. If you take any without hearing them sing, you may know whether it be Cock or Hen thus; if a Cock, his breast will be of a dark red, and the red will run farther up upon his Head than on the Hen's.

Of the WREN.

THIS Bird, in my opinion, is a sweet Songster, and always very chearful. He is no less pleasant to the Ear, than to the Eye; and when he sings lifts up his Tail, and throws out his Notes with alacrity and pleasure, so that not any bird of its bigness more delights the hearing.

This bird builds twice a year; first about the latter end of *April*, in Shrubs where Ivy grows thick, and sometimes in old Hovels and Barns. They lay a numerous quantity of Eggs; and I can assure you, I have

seen a Nest containing two-and-twenty. Two things here are greatly to be wondered at; first, that so small a bird should cover such a quantity of Eggs; secondly, when they have hatched, to feed them all, and not to miss one bird.

Their second time of breeding is in the middle of *June*. Of either breed, what you intend to keep, must be taken out of the Nest at thirteen or fourteen days old. Let their food be Sheeps-heart and Egg minced very small, or Calves or Heifers-heart; but be sure to clear them of the Fat and Sinews, which must be a general rule to be observed for all Meat-birds. Feed them in the Nest every day very often, but a little at a time; let the Instrument you feed them with be a Stick; and when you observe them to pick it off of their own accord, then cage them, putting meat for them in a little Pan, and about the sides of the Cage, to entice them to eat; however, have a care to feed them too, lest they neglect themselves and die. When they can feed themselves very well, give them once in three days a Spider or two. You may teach them to whistle tunes, if you desire it; for they are easily taught, being a very docible bird. If fed with Paste, they will live longer than when they are fed upon Heart. The brownest and largest of the young *Wrens* are the Cocks.

Of the WOOD-LARK.

SOME prefer the *Wood-lark* to the *Nightingale*; but as of all others, some of this bird are more excellent in length and sweetness of Song.

This bird breeds the soonest of any; and therefore if not taken in the beginning of *February* at least, they grow rank, and prove good for nothing.

The places this Bird most delights in are gravelly grounds, and Hills lying towards the East, and in Oat-stubs. They build in Layer grounds, where the
Grass

Grass is rank and russet, making their Nests of Ben-net-grass, or dead Grass of the field under some large Tuft, to shelter them from the injury of the Weather.

This Bird hath very excellent pleasant Notes, with great variety, even to the number of thirty; to which some join the *Nightingale's* song, and then, if they sing layish, the melodious Harmony is exquisite.

These Birds are never bred from the Nests. I have several times attempted it, but to no purpose; for notwithstanding my greatest care, they died in a Week, either of the Cramp or Scowring.

The times of the year to take them are *June, July* and *August*; and then they are called young *Branchers*, having not yet moulted. They are taken likewise at the latter end of *September*; but having then moulted, the young and old are not distinguishable.

Lastly, they are taken from the beginning of *January* to the latter end of *February*, at which time they are all coupled and returned to their Breeding-places.

The way to take them in *June, July*, and *August*, is with an Hobby, after this manner. In a dewy Morning, get to the sides of some Hills which lie to the rising of the Sun, where they most usually frequent; and having sprung them, observe where they fall; then surround them twice or thrice with your Hobby on your Fist, causing him to hover when you draw near, by which means they will lie still till you clap a Net over them, which you carry on the point of a Stick.

If three or four go together, take a Net like one made for *Partridges*: when you go with a Setting-dog only, the Mesh must be smaller, that is, a *Lark-mesh*; and then your Hobby to the *Lark* is like a Setting-dog to *Partridges*, and with your Net at one draught you may take the whole flock.

The *Wood-Lark* taken in *June, July*, and *August*, will sing presently, but will not last long, on account of their moulting. That taken in *January* and *February* will

will sing in five or six days, or sooner; is best, being taken in full stomach, and more perfect in Song than those taken at other seasons.

If in the Cage you find him grow poor at the beginning of the Spring, give him every two or three days a Turf of Three-leaved-grass (as is used for the *Sky-Lark*); boil him a Sheep's-heart, and mince it small, mingling it among his Bread, Egg, and Hemp-seed, which will cause him to thrive.

If he be troubled with Lice (a Distemper common to this bird) take him out of the Cage, and smoak him with Tobacco; give him fresh Gravel, and set him in a hot place where the Sun shines, and this will cure him, if he have strength to bask in the Sand.

If you would have him sing lavishly, feed him with Sheeps-heart, Egg, Bread and Hemp-seed mixt together, and put into his Water a little Liquorice, white Sugar-candy, and Saffron: let this be done once a week.

Upon the first taking of your *Wood-Lark* do thus. Put into your Cage two Pans, one for minced Meat, and another for Oat-meal and whole Hemp-seed. Then, having boiled an Egg hard, take the crumbs of white Bread, the like quantity of Hemp-seed pounded in a Mortar, and mingle it with the Egg minced very small, and give it him. Let there be at the bottom of the Cage fine red gravel, and let it be shifted every week at farthest; for he delights to bask in the Sand, which will not be convenient if souled with his Dung. Let the Perch of the Cage be lined with green Baize, or which is better, make a Perch of a Mat; and lest they should not find the Pan so soon as they ought, to prevent Famine, strew upon the Sand some Oat-meal and Hemp-seed.

To know the Cock; take notice, first, of the largeness and length of his Call: Secondly, his upright walking: Thirdly, at Evenings the doubling of his Note, which Artists call *Cuddling*; but if you hear him sing strong, you cannot be deceived.

Here

Note also, that if a Bird taken in *February* and *January*, sing not within one month after, you may conclude it is not worth keeping, or else that it is an Hen.

The *Wood-Lark*, as it is naturally endowed with incomparable Notes, so it is a tender Bird, and difficult to be kept; but if rightly ordered, and well looked to, will be a most delightful Songster, growing better and better every year, even to the very last.

These Birds are very subject to the Cramp, Giddiness in the Head, and to Lice. The best remedy to prevent the Cramp, is to shift the Cage often with fresh Gravel, otherwise the Dung will clog to their Feet, which causes Cramp. The Giddiness of the Head proceeds from feeding upon much Hemp-seed—perceiving this distemper, give him some Gentles (the common Bait for Fishermen); or Hog-lice, Emmets and their Eggs, with Liquorice, all put into water, will serve in their stead, and will cure immediately. Loufiness (which causes this bird to become lean) is cured, as I said before, by smoaking it with Tobacco.

Of the SKY-LARK.

THIS Bird is very hardy, and will live upon any food, so that he have but once a week a Turf of Three-leaved-grass. The *Sky-Lark* hath rarely any young ones till the middle of *May*. They commonly build in Corn, or thick high Grass Meadows, and seldom have more than four. Take them at a fortnight old, and at first give them minced Sheeps-heart, with a chopped hard Egg mingled: when they can feed alone, give them Bread, Hemp-seed, and Oatmeal; let the Bread be mingled with Egg, and the Hemp-seed bruised. Let them have Sand in the bottom of their Cage. Perches are needless.

The

The *Sky-lark* and *Wood-lark* are both taken with Net and Hobby. They are taken likewise in dark nights with a Trammel, which is a kind of Net, about six and thirty yards long, and six yards over, run through with six ribs of Pack-thread; which ribs at the ends are put upon two Poles sixteen foot long, made taper at each end, and so carried between two men half a yard from the ground; every six steps touching the ground, to cause the Birds to fly up, otherwise you may carry the Net over them without disturbing them: hearing them fly against the Net, clap it down, and they are safe under it. This Net takes all sorts of Birds, as *Partridges*, *Quails*, *Wood-cocks*, *Snipes*, *Felshares*, and what not, and is proper for dark nights.

Another way of taking them is with a pair of Day-nets and a Glass, which is good pastime in a frosty morning. These Nets are commonly seven foot deep, and fifteen long, knit with a French Mesh, and very fine Thread; and used to take all sorts of small Birds, as *Bunting-larks*, *Linnets*, &c.

Larks are also taken by a Low-bell, with a great light carried in a Tub, by one man, and the Net by another; this Bell and Light so amazes them, that they lie as dead, and stir not till the Net is cast over them. By this Bell are also taken *Partridges* and *Pheasants*; and if the Bell be loud, or very deep, *Duck*, *Mallard*, *Woodcock*, and *Snipe* may be taken by it.

The last way of taking *Larks* is in a great Snow, with an hundred or two hundred yards of Packthread, fastning at every six Inches a Noose made with Horse-hair; two hairs are sufficient. I shall only further mention, in respect of *Larks*, that those you intend to preserve for singing, must be taken in *October* or *November*. Choose the straightest, largest, and loftiest Bird, and he that hath most white on his Tail, for these are the marks of the Cock. Observe in this Bird, as in all others, that you give no salt-meat, nor Bread that has Salt in it.

Of

Of the LINNET.

THEIR Nests are usually in Thorn and Furz Bushes; and some of the hotter sort of them will breed four times a year. The young ones may be taken at four days old, if you intend to teach them to whistle, or learn the Song of other Birds: for being so young, they know not the tune of the old Bird. Keep them very warm, and feed them often, a little at a time. Rape-seeds bruised and soaked, with the like quantity of white bread, may be their food; but it must be fresh made every day, to prevent scouring, otherwise it will scour them to death; and let not their meat be too dry, for fear of being Vent-burnt. If you intend they shall whistle, you must whistle to them in the time of Feeding, being more apt to learn before they can crack hard feeds. Whatever bird you intend your *Linnet* shall learn his Notes of, hang him under it, and he will perfectly imitate him.

To know the Cock from the Hen. Take your young *Linnet* when the Wing-feathers are grown, and stretch out his Wing, holding his body fast with the other hand; and then observe the white upon the fourth, fifth, and sixth Feathers; if it cast a glistering white, and the white goes close to the Quill, this is a sure sign of a Cock.

Of the GOLD FINCH.

THEY breed commonly in Apple and Plum trees, thrice a year. Take the young ones with the Nest at ten days old, and feed them after this manner: take some of the best Hemp-seed, pound it, sift it, and mix it with the like quantity of white bread, with some flower of Canary-seeds; and taking up the quantity of a white Pea upon a small Stick, feed them therewith three or four bits at a time, making fresh every day. Keep them very warm till they can feed themselves, for their nature is very tender.

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When

When sick, give them a little Groundsel every day. The best seeds for the *Gold Finch* are those of Lettuce, Plantain, and Thistle; and nothing can be more wholesome for him than Wall or Loom-earth, and some fine Sand, and a lump or two of Sugar put frequently into his Cage.

Chalk, put either in a lump in the wire of their cages, or pounded at the bottom, will prevent their scouring.

Of the TIT-LARK.

TIT-LARKS commonly appear at the same time of the year as the *Nightingale*, which is the beginning of *April*, and leave us at the beginning of *September*. They are fed when taken as the *Nightingale*. Cram him at first, for he will not feed himself, because he always feeds on live meat in the field, and therefore is unacquainted with the meat we offer him. When he comes to feed of himself, he will eat what the *Wood-Lark* eats, or almost any other meat.

This Bird breeds about the latter end of *April*, or beginning of *May*, and builds her Nest on the ground by some Pond or Ditch-side, and feeds her young with Caterpillars or Flies. They are easily brought up, being hardy; are not subject to Colds or Cramps as other birds; and live long, if preserved with care. If you breed up this bird young and cleanly, you may, in a course of time, become enamored with his Song.

Of the CHAFFINCH.

THEY build their Nests in Hedges and Trees of all sorts, and have young ones twice or thrice a year. They are seldom bred up from the Nest, because they are not so apt to take another bird's Song, nor to whistle. The *Essex Chaffinch* is best both for length of Song and variety, concluding it with several Notes very prettily. He is very little subject to Disease; but is inclinable to be very lousy, if he be not sprinkled with a little Wine twice or thrice a Month.

Of

Of the STARLING.

THIS Bird is kept by all ranks of people, and taught to pipe, whistle, or talk. Those who intend to have them excellent, and without their harsh squeaking Notes, must take them from the old ones at the end of six or eight days; and thus you must do to all birds you would learn to whistle, or speak, or learn another Bird's Song, which they attain by hanging beneath the bird you would have them learn of.

Feed them as the *Blackbird* at first, and afterwards as the *Wood-Lark*.

Of the REDSTART.

THIS Bird is a fore-runner of the *Nightingale*. It is of a very sullen dogged temper in a Cage; but abroad hath a pleasant chearful Song.

The Cock is fair, beautifully coloured, and delightful to the eye. They breed thrice a year; the latter end of *April*, in *May*, and towards the latter end of *June*.

They build usually in holes of hollow Trees, or under the eaves of houses, and are remarkable shy in this business; for when she is about her Nest, if she perceive any look on, she forsakes it; and if you touch an Egg, she comes never more to the Nest; or if she have young ones, and you touch them, she will either starve them, or break their Neck over the Nest. But though the old ones are thus dogged, yet if you bring up their young, their nature will alter, and become very tame.

Take them out of the Nest when they are about ten days old; if they stay longer, they will learn somewhat of the old one's sullen temper. You must feed them with *Shorps-heart* and Eggs chopped and mixt together, about the quantity of three white Peas, upon the end of a Stick, when they open their mouths: when they will thus feed, put them into a Cage with meat about

it, and a Pan of meat within; and though he feed himself, yet it will be very sparingly for four or five days, wherefore you must now and then feed him yourself. Keep him warm in the Winter, and he will sing as well in the night as the day.

Of the BULLFINCH.

THE *Bullfinch* is no rare Bird. He hath neither Song of his own; nor whistle, but is very apt to learn any thing almost, if taught by the mouth,

Of the GREENFINCH.

THIS being a hardy heavy Bird, is used for ringing of Bells. They breed by the High-way-side, and early, before the Hedges have Leaves on them, so that their first Nests seldom come to any thing. They breed three times a year, and the young ones are very hardy birds to bring up. You may feed them with white Bread and Rape bruised and soaked together: He is apter to take the Whistle than another Bird's Song; and will certainly never kill himself, either by singing or whistling.

Of the HEDGE-SPARROW.

THIS is not so despicable a bird as some would have it; his Song contains very delightful Notes, and he sings early in the Spring with great variety. Old or young become tame very quickly, and will sing in a short time after they are taken, if you take them at the latter end of *January* or beginning of *February*. They will feed almost on any thing you give them.

They commonly build in a White-thorn or private Hedge, laying Eggs much different from other Birds, being of a very fine blue colour. This Bird is very tractable, and will take any bird's Song almost, if taken young out of the Nest.

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